



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 21.49 Thursday, December 3, 2015 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Sumpter Township selects new board member: Don LaPorte

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

Don LaPorte was selected to fill the vacant Sumpter Township Trustee position left open by the death of William Hamm.

Trustee Hamm died suddenly Oct. 16 at the age of 60 of an apparent heart attack.

LaPorte and Hamm served together as paid-per-call fire fighters in the Sumpter Fire Department.

At the Nov. 24 regular meeting of the township board, Supervisor John Morgan moved the vote on the trustee's position from the bottom of the agenda to the top so the new trustee would be able to take part in that evening's meeting.

Supervisor Morgan said eight candidates were considered and to pick one will leave seven feeling rejected.

He said the decision was hard but he's been told, "If you can't stand making a decision, you shouldn't be up here," referring to the elevated board table.

Treasurer Alan Bates made the motion to appoint Don LaPorte and Trustee Matthew Oddy seconded the motion. The board voted 5-1 to approve, with Clerk Clarence Hoffman voting no.

34th District Court Judge David Parrott then swore LaPorte in and Trustee LaPorte was seated in Hamm's regular seat at the board table.

"It was a very tough decision, to select one person out of eight," Supervisor Morgan said. "If I had applied, I would feel a deep kind of rejection... We had to pick one out of eight and live with our decision."

Supervisor Morgan said if they chose instead to pay for an election, it would cost the township about \$8,000.

"I hope no one holds animosities," he said and then the meeting turned to other business items.

At the end of the meeting under the Open Floor section of the agenda, Chris Walter-Hamm, the late trustee's wife, got

up to speak. She referred to a letter she had sent to board members asking them to reconsider their vote to name someone other than her as trustee.

Before beginning her presentation, she walked to the board table and shook Trustee LaPorte's hand and congratulated him on his appointment.

Then, Chris began reading her prepared remarks:

"Thank you, John Morgan, for offering me the position, as it should have been, just as Debbie Dingell filled her husband's seat, then ran and was elected by the people.

"I appreciate your efforts in trying to do the right thing. Thank you for your continued support.

"Peggy Morgan, thank you for relaying information to me through all of this when many others turned away and for always supporting me. Thank you for being a great friend.

"Matthew Oddy, thank you for letting me know how inadequate I have been on the planning commission. 'I bring nothing to the table.' I heard how inadequate I am in your opinion. You have also stated that my absenteeism from planning commission meetings as a reason to keep me off the board.

"Out of 14 meetings, I have missed six. Two were due to being on vacation in Florida with Bill, one was for a family emergency, two were for my medical training with the fire department, and one was due to being with Bill for one of his surgeries. I highly doubt anybody can consider this 'high absenteeism.' All absences were excused.

"Peggy Morgan was the only person to ever inquire as to why I missed these meetings. If you thought it was such an issue, why didn't you ask me? You are not the chair I report to. When my schedule changed, I spoke to Jane Stalmack myself and let her know that I was coming back

(continued on page 3)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Theresa Cassini stands next to the remains of her new house at 16620 Haggerty Road in Van Buren Township that was constructed to replace her house that burned in 2005.

VBT tears down unfinished house after 9 years of 'construction'

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

Theresa Cassini's "new" house at 16620 Haggerty Road was torn down on Monday with Van Buren Township police and ordinance officials standing by, along with township attorney Angela Mannarino.

Also standing by was Cassini, who claimed the problem had been with the foundation and the VBT Building Department had approved the faulty foundation and now is trying to destroy the evidence.

Cassini, who lives in Inkster, said she has more than \$200,000 invested in this house.

Neighbors also were outside watching the destruction on Monday and said they were happy to see the house being torn down since it had been under construction for a decade and a constant eyesore. They said the blight was never-ending and there were rats that came over from the empty house to their properties.

"There was violation of so many township ordinances," said attorney Mannarino. "This is not what we wanted to do, but this was only force of action we could take.

We spent years working with her and she didn't work with us."

"We did not want to do this," agreed VBT Police Lt. Charles Bazy. "But we've done everything we could to try to solve the problem."

He explained the long, involved series of events that led to this day.

Lt. Bazy said in late November 2005, the original home burned and in 2006, Cassini got a building permit to reconstruct the home. The permit expired in 2007 and it was reissued in 2008. Then it expired in 2009.

Since then, the house has been sitting there unfinished.

Mannarino said under the township ordinance if construction ceases for a year or the building is deemed unsafe the building can be torn down. She said Cassini tried to get her property tax reduced and her own engineer condemned the structure.

Lt. Bazy, who oversees the township's ordinance department, said there were a number of ordinance violations for blight in 2014 and two court-ordered cleanups

(continued on page 20)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 1)

and that I would not be missing any more meetings due to Fire 1 and 2 training.

"Donald Swinson, we have had our differences ..." Chris continued and was interrupted by Supervisor Morgan.

"This will lead to responses," Supervisor Morgan said of her remarks. "Don't be calling people's names ..."

"You let Mary Ban go on and on," Chris replied.

"That's different," Supervisor Morgan said of Ban's comments.

"I don't think so," Chris replied.

She then skipped over her personal comments against Trustee Swinson, Treasurer Bates, and Clerk Hoffman, and continued her final statement.

"This would have been a fantastic way for me to continue my husband's legacy. This was what Bill wanted. He told me prior to his back surgery that if anything happened to him, he wanted me to take his seat.

"I am more than qualified for the job and was only asking to finish out his term. I have been heavily involved with this board thus far and will continue to do so. You will see my face at meetings and I will still be around.

"... You robbed me of something that is more valuable to me than you will ever know, just because you could, and for that you should be ashamed of yourselves. When you go home to your wives tonight, take

a good look at them and think about how awful they would feel if they were recently widowed and going through this from a group of people they once leaned on and thought they could count on. I hope none of them ever have to experience anything like this. Thank you for your time."

Supervisor Morgan said, "I hope it makes you feel better to get it off your chest."

Chris objected to the comment, saying she will be fine.

At the end of the meeting, Trustee Oddy said he wanted to address Chris' comments. He said because he sits on the planning commission he was asked his opinion of her as a possible trustee and, "I said I couldn't give a good opinion on you because I haven't seen a lot of you ... because you missed meetings." He said that was his only comment and he meant no malice.

In other business at the Nov. 24 meeting, the board:

- Approved the first reading of a new Medical Marijuana Caregiver Ordinance dated 2015 to replace the previous Caregiver Ordinance adopted on Aug. 23, 2011 and amended Dec. 13, 2011. Trustee Peggy Morgan voted no because she needs more information and will sit down with township attorney Rob Young to go over the changes. Trustee Morgan first tried to get the ordinance tabled but Supervisor Morgan said it was important to move it forward so, "Sumpter is not overrun by marijuana growers." Young said this was just the first reading, not the



34th District Court Judge David Parrott, left, swears in Donald LaPorte to a seat on the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees to fill the opening left by the recent death of William Hamm. At right is LaPorte's wife and son.

adoption. He said this ordinance takes care of the problem. They had considered two ordinances, but two aren't needed, he said;

- Approved a resolution establishing the fee structure for grade change applications involving cubic yards: less than 20 cubic yard of fill, \$75; 20-50 cubic yards, \$150; and more than 50 cubic yard, \$450;

- Approved six board members and/or deputies to attend the Michigan Township Association conference Jan. 20-22 in Detroit;

- Heard Trustee Swinson report the Parks

and Recreation Commission's Turkey Shoot in October made \$2,000, the most they've ever made;

- Heard Trustee Oddy report on issues before the planning commission. He said the updated ordinances coming will relax all the pressure on the Zoning Board of Appeals; and

- Heard State Rep. Phil LaVoy say he voted no on the road funding plan and he was just checking in. He said he would stay after the meeting to answer questions and listen to concerns.

VBT Supervisor to seek one more member for LDFA membership

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Supervisor Linda Combs had to come from her home to attend the Nov. 10 meeting of the Local Development Finance Authority at the township because otherwise the group wouldn't have a quorum and could not meet.

Supervisor Combs has taken an eight-week leave of absence from her job to be with her husband who is very ill.

She had to come in to the meeting because there were three absences – Shareen Barker, Chuck Covington, and Danylo Dobriansky – and the Wayne County representative, Khalil Rahal, who was just approved by the VBT Board has been withdrawn and is being replaced by Jelani Karomoko, who was present but couldn't be counted as a member because he has yet to be approved by the township board.

That left five present and Combs made the sixth so the meeting could begin.

Others present were Chairman Michael Dotson, Leonard Armstrong, Chris Hayes, J. Doug Peters, and James Williams.

John Delaney spoke from the audience

concerning the membership. He said the LDFA has only 10 members, when its bylaws and state law on LDFAs say there have to be 11 members.

Delaney said the last time they had 11 members on the board was in January 2011. He stressed the LDFA has to have 11 members.

He said the LDFA is working on some very difficult problems with the Visteon bonds and needs people to be here at meetings to tend to that. He pointed out that this is only the second LDFA meeting held this year and several have been cancelled due to lack of quorum.

If they had 11 members it would be easier to come up with a quorum, he said.

Supervisor Combs said, "We're looking for members." She said they have it posted on the township web site and she makes announcements at meetings that "we are seeking people for boards and commissions."

Delaney said he would apply, but he knows he wouldn't be picked.

LDFA member Peters said *anyone* willing to serve on the LDFA should submit their name to the supervisor's office. He said his

verbal *anyone* should be underlined twice, emphasizing the word.

"I'll do that immediately," Delaney said.

Combs said he would have to fill out an application.

Chairman Dotson said the selection has to be transparent.

"I will speak before the township board on his behalf," said Peters, referring to Delaney. "He is here at every meeting and stays informed."

Earlier in the meeting, while Delaney was speaking, Combs wrote something on a pad of paper and passed it over to the Karomoko to read.

Delaney stopped his remarks and wanted to know what information she was secretly passing on.

Combs said she wrote that she needed duct tape for her mouth because Delaney rubs her the wrong way.

The discussion on meeting quorums came up after Planning and Economic Development Director Ron Akers presented information on meeting teleconferencing to allow members to vote long-distance.

"It appears this is something the LDFA can do," Akers said.

An attorney's opinion from the Michigan Township Association (MTA) cited cases and stated "... we believe the safest course to follow is to at least have a quorum physically present at the meeting or hearing. Anything less could cause a court to invalidate the proceedings on the premises that a quorum was not present."

Chairman Dotson said the teleconferencing procedure has the intent of adding flexibility.

"It's not our intent not to have a regular quorum here or to get around the Open Meetings Act," Dotson said.

Combs said the representative of Sovereign Partners from New York City – Danylo Dobriansky -- couldn't be present for that day's meeting. She said this teleconferencing would not be a standard way of doing business.

Delaney said he has a problem with the MTA because "they always give you what you want to hear." He said the law calls for a quorum to be here – not at New York City Trump Towers or Nova Scotia.

Delaney said Dobriansky hasn't been to an LDFA meeting since he was appointed

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OPINIONS

Editorial

VB T Police, Fire respond to 'layoffs'

Tuesday's meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees was before a room filled with agitated police officers, fire fighters, and residents – all wanting to know what was going on.

Sixteen comments were made in an hour-long discussion set off by the township attorney's email to the fire fighter negotiating team concerning dissolving the duty crew and a verbal, 7-day notice from "the employer" that layoffs were coming in the police department.

Resident Katherine Walsh started off the comments by saying she has been reading things on the *Independent* website about those and other topics and, "There's a big elephant in this room" that's not being talked about. She said the police layoffs have been brushed off as "a big misunderstanding" by one township official.

Clerk Wright said the board didn't send a letter to fire fighters and if the board didn't send it, it's just a "letter floating around." But that letter was signed by the township attorney.

Officer Chris Valinski pointed out the 2016 budget approved just minutes earlier has funding in place to maintain the staff for the next year.

"Layoffs had been discussed," Clerk Wright admitted.

Lt. Mark Buckberry, president of the POLC Command unit, said he and Sgt. Louis Keele were talking on Nov. 23 and Director Greg Laurain said the employment offer to a new officer was rescinded because there may be layoffs of 5-10 officers, depending on how deep the board wants to go.

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EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Grace Smith, who made all the lovely pink, paper flowers that decorated the float I rode on in the Strawberry Festival Parade in June, has passed away from cancer. She worked very hard to make the float beautiful and it was. Our community is less for her passing. RIP, Grace.

An unidentified drone hovering near children on a playground has prompted the Caro Community Schools in Michigan's Tuscola County to be the first state school district to move towards a total ban on use of drones on school grounds.

A playground aide at McComb Elementary School reported the drone hovering near children playing during a regular school day in September.

Already banning drones in part or altogether are Michigan State University, University of Michigan, and the Michigan Capitol in Lansing. Also, Governor Rick Snyder has banned the use of drones for hunting and fishing.

A Belleville resident who owes no money to anyone – "Even my credit cards are paid up" – got a call from the Treasury Department saying she owed them money.

She said the man speaking had such a heavy accent she couldn't understand him and she knew it was a scam call.

She said she got two calls on Friday and one the previous week. She said on Friday that she yelled at the man and hung up. She says she is getting tired of these scam calls.

We agreed that some people might not realize these are scam calls and might send them their hard-earned money. By

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



constantly telling of the scams we hope our readers will consider our warnings when they get the calls.

One of our readers, formerly of Belleville and now of Florida, told me on Saturday that it is very disturbing to look at the way things are now. He said politicians and government officials don't seem to be held accountable for the things they do wrong that the taxpayers have to pay for.

"The only ones who are held accountable are police officers and they are the ones who put their lives on the line every day to protect us," he said.

The man, who has lived all over the world and traveled extensively, was talking about the Van Buren Township situation and then widened his comments to say it stretched throughout the country.

I've been informed that Steven Scarborough, the 12-year-old bugler from Brownstown Township, will be filling in again as bugler at next Sunday's Bugles Across America event at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial at Horizon Park. Steven also is in the honor guard for the Brownstown Township Fire Department where his father is a fire fighter.

We received an anonymous letter giving the details of The Driver's Advantage driving school being held at Van Buren Township Fire Station #1 as a for-profit

business. I talked to VBT Treasurer Sharry Budd and she said she didn't know about it, but she would check.

She found out, at first, that the owner of the school, VBT Police Officer Dale Harrison, was paying \$10 per day that his students were in the meeting room at the fire hall. When she was asked about it at Monday's work/study meeting of the township board, she said that Supervisor Linda Combs had signed off on the use.

She said Monday that the township would rent out rooms at the Municipal Center to non-profit groups, but not the fire halls or other buildings.

On Tuesday, Sharry said that the last class in Harrison's current series is Dec. 5 and he is being allowed to complete that because he has already paid for that day.

But, she said, he has been instructed to find other accommodations from now on.

The web site for the driving school has a huge photo of the fire hall at the top of the site and so, I guess, that's going to have to be replaced with some other illustration.

When the school first started, classes were held at the high school. Their office was in the law office of Tom White, who is now in prison. Classes were at part of the restaurant in the Belle Plaza through two owners. Then he moved to the fire hall.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Please bring back our Baby Jesus, Mary, etc.

To the Editor:

My daughter lives in Harbour Pointe with her husband and two young children. A couple of week ends ago, they excitedly put up their indoor and outdoor Christmas decorations.

The outside decorations included an old-time plastic light-up manger scene that had belonged to her husband's grandparents. It included Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, the kings, an angel, some animals and a shephard.

Two nights ago, someone stole Mary, Joseph, the animals, the kings and Baby Jesus!

They are just sickened by this act. It not only was a delightful scene, but it had such a special meaning as it was something handed down in her husband's family.

We are asking whoever took them to please return them. They can do it as they took it, in the middle of the night, no questions asked. And if anyone sees them sitting in someone's yard, please either call the paper or police and let them know.

Really, who steals Baby Jesus during the holiest of seasons? Thanks.

Barbara Harris

Thank you to second grader for helping me

To the Editor:

I had a nice surprise yesterday afternoon, Nov. 30. Edgemont School had just ended classes and I went outdoors to pick up the many branches in my yard. A van pulled up in front and a young girl and her mother got out. They approached me and said they wanted to help. I walk with a cane and I have some trouble bending over so I welcomed their help.

The young girl was Allison Frederick, a second grader at Edgemont. I didn't know her or her mother, but in talking to the mother I found out she is the daughter-in-law of friends I have known for years. Her brothers-in-law were in my husband's boy scout troop along with my son Mark. Small world. This act of kindness put a very nice ending to the month of November.

Thank you, Allison, for all your help. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Donna Sienko
 Belleville

"Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love."
 — Albert Einstein

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OK, Leo's! Thanks for saving our day

To the Editor:

OK, Leo's! Due to scheduling problems my wife and I had planned to have our family Thanksgiving dinner on the Sunday preceding the holiday. Well, due to the fact that our power went out Saturday evening and DTE's estimate for restoration was sometime late Sunday, a call went out to Sam at Leo's Coney Island Belleville and we were assured that a traditional Thanksgiving dinner would be prepared for us.

Talk about above and beyond! Sam came through and it was great. Sam and his brother Moe (who operates their second location in Flat Rock) both have been an asset to the communities in which they do business and now are an asset to our family.

Thanks again to Sam and his crew for saving the day.

Gratefully,
 Fred and JoAnne Dinglie
 Sumpter Township

Thanks to Meijer for supplies for workshop

To the Editor:

The women of Belleville First United Methodist Church would like to acknowledge our local Meijer store for its generous donation for our Graham Cracker House workshop supplies. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Join our Graham Cracker House workshop this Saturday, Dec. 5, at fellowship hall of Belleville First United Methodist Church at 417 Charles Street from 10 a.m. until noon. Please bring a small, sturdy, nonflexible plate to build on (we will have a few plates available); all other supplies will be provided!

Come enjoy the fun and take home your own creation. All ages welcome. Cost is only \$5 thanks to our Meijer donation.

Lynda Aimone
 President, United Methodist Women

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Belleville Independent is now a drop off location for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Bring in your new, unwrapped toy to our office at: 152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI

We are located in the Professional Building (the old movie theater building) across from Mr. Goofy's Car Wash.

More Letters

Angel of Hope ceremony set for Sunday, Dec. 6

To the Editor:

We invite the public to a special candlelight memorial, Angel of Hope, in honor of our beloved children that have gone before us. This short but solemn evening of dedication and honor is set aside each year at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 in loving tribute to the memory of our beloved and greatly missed deceased children, regardless of age.

The "Angel of Hope" or also known as the Christmas Box Angel Statue was introduced to the world in the book "The Christmas Box," a worldwide bestseller and hit television movie by author Richard Paul Evans. In the fictional story, a woman mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument. An angel statue was commissioned by Evans, in response to reports that grieving parents were seeking out the angel as a place to grieve and heal. The first statue was dedicated on Dec. 6, 1994 in Salt Lake City. As news of the angels spread, people from around the world contacted Evans so they, too, could have an Angel erected closer to them.



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Obituaries



Loyd Richard Davis

RICK DAVIS

ROCK HILL, SC – Mr. Loyd Richard Davis, 65, died Friday, November 27, 2015 at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC.

The funeral was held at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at Cornerstone United Methodist Church with Rev. Irvin Plowden, Jr. officiating. Burial was private.

Born in Marietta, GA, Mr. Davis was a son of Naomi Davis of Mableton, GA and the late Loyd Byrd Davis. He was a member of Cornerstone United Methodist Church and was retired from the U.S. Postal Service with over 30 years of service. He was a member and past officer of the Southeast Plant and Exotic Palms Society and enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, gardening, and kayaking.

In addition to his mother, Mr. Davis is survived by his wife, Karen Geraghty Davis; his daughters, Elizabeth Brennan and her husband, Michael of Spartanburg, SC and Erin Harris and her husband Shaun of Dearborn Heights, MI; his brothers, Lamar Davis, Michael Davis and his wife Barbara, and Butch Davis, all of Georgia; his sister, Carole Tidwell and her husband Greg of Georgia; and six grandchildren, Kira, Ally and Wesley Rice and Alexa, Lauren and James Harris.

The family received friends from 6-7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 2015 at Greene Funeral Home Northwest Chapel, 2133 Ebenezer Road, Rock Hill.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Mr. Davis' name to Cornerstone United Methodist Church, 2697 Heckle Boulevard, Rock Hill, SC 29732.

Condolences may be made at www.greenefuneralhome.net.



DONALD J. MEYER

(December 6, 2015 – November 24, 2015)

Age 96, served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. Member of St. Anthony Catholic Church. Survived by 5 children, 10 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.



Frank Lewandowski

FRANK LEWANDOWSKI

(May 31, 1927 – November 25, 2015)

Frank Lewandowski, age 88, of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, November 25, 2015 at Arbor Hospice-The Residence, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born May 31, 1927 in Warren Township, MI, son of Walter & Sophie Josephine (Kornacki) Lewandowski.

Frank proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was a long-time member of the Belleville Presbyterian Church. He enjoyed fishing and golfing. He loved taking things apart, but was never able to get it back together the correct way. Most of all, he loved his wife of 67 years, Rachel, who passed away in 2014.

Frank is survived by his daughter Cindi Price; daughter-in-law Debra Cully; grandchildren Tera (Jeremy) Thompson, Jeffery (Kristin) Price, Jr., Kate Price; great-grandchildren Caleb & Cully Thompson, Jeffery Brian Price III; sister Joan Styers; brother Alan Lewandowski; brother-in-law Ray (Shirley) Benson; also numerous nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Rachel Dolores (Benson) Lewandowski on March 8, 2014, son Terry Lewandowski in 1981, son-in-law Jeff Price, Sr. in 2011, brother Walter Lewandowski and brother-in-law Philip "Bob" Styers.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at the Belleville Presbyterian Church, 11900 Belleville Rd., Belleville. A luncheon will follow at Johnny's Grill, Belleville. Interment of cremains will be in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, with his wife R. Delores.

Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, Dec. 7 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, Dec. 8 – Van Buren Township Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m. and regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library meeting at 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Dec. 9 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Thursday, Dec. 10 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Also, City of Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, Dec. 14 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m.

• Tuesday, Dec. 15 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.

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Obituaries



Grace A. Smith

GRACE ANTOINETTE SMITH

(July 5, 1963 – November 22, 2015)

Grace A. Smith, 52, of Belleville passed away on November 22, 2015 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. She was born on July 5, 1963 in Detroit, Michigan, a daughter of Mary (Cassar) and the late Joseph Abela.

Grace was a volunteer on many committees in the Belleville area, at Holy Redeemer Parish, and also at St. Gabriel Richard Catholic Church. She enjoyed traveling and gardening. She had been employed at the J.H. Corporation for 12 years and at Michigan Trucking Company for 8 years. Her greatest pleasure was spending time with her granddaughter Olivia and her sister Lisa. She also enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Grace is survived by her loving husband of 25 years, Virgil Smith. Loving daughter of Mary Abela; cherished mother of Alainea Marija Smith, Lance D. Johnson, Desiree Smith, and 2 stepsons, Charles Smith and Benjamin Smith. Cherished grandmother of Olivia Colston. She is also survived by her siblings Lawrence J. Abela, Kevin M. Abela and Lisa Tesner-Collins.

She was preceded in death by her father Joseph Abela in 1986, her grandfather Lorenzo Abela and her stepson Reginald Smith. Grace will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

A funeral mass for Mrs. Smith was held on Saturday, November 28, 2015 at 9:30 A.M. at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia, Belleville, with The Rev. Fr. Thomas Cusick officiating. Burial followed at Van Hoosen Jones Cemetery in Rochester Hills. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grace's granddaughter, Olivia Colston, P.O. Box 2423, Belleville, MI 48112.

Arrangements entrusted to Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville, MI 48111 734-697-9400 www.hnfhhome.com

More Letters

Burnett family thanks all for their caring

Open letter to the community:

On behalf of myself, my husband Bruce Burnett, and our entire extended family, I am writing to thank everyone who had a hand in the celebration of Bruce's life that was held at the Belleville Moose on Nov. 14. From client-come-friend, Linda LeBlanc of The Pumpkin Factory, who spear-headed the event, the staff and membership of the Moose, who donated the space and their time, to the over 400 people, Bruce's customers, friends, family, friends of friends, some faces neither of us recognized but came out anyway to support us, my words fall short of our overwhelming gratitude. Though we all grew up in this community, none of us could have expected the outpouring of support we have received from you all. Your generosity and kindness of spirit will help us keep Bruce as comfortable and happy as possible for whatever time he has left and help relieve some of the financial burden we face planning for the end of his life.

As most of you know, Bruce was recently diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, (CJD). CJD is a rapidly progressive, always fatal neurodegenerative disorder that is so rare, just over 1 in a million persons will contact it; and of that minute number, only 5-15% of them inherit the disease genetically. Though CJD took Bruce's mother Grace from us in 1988, we believed the odds were still in our favor. Sadly, that was not to be. There is no cure for CJD and nearly all die within one year of infection.

A man like my husband, though, is even rarer than the statistics of the disease. He has lived his life as a one-in-a-million kind of man, husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, son, friend, and tradesman who will leave an indelible imprint on our hearts and lives. When that spot on my heart feels empty and sore, I will try not to mourn all that I have lost, but instead treasure that little scar as a reminder of all that he has given me.

With the Christmas holiday coming up,

you may wonder what the Burnett Clan could possibly have to celebrate as Bruce's quality of life deteriorates before our eyes. But as you helped celebrate Bruce's life on Nov. 14, this week we celebrate that we have you in our lives and give thanks for your compassion, empathy, and benevolence. You have defined the spirit of community.

This holiday, when your cousin arrives late and over-served yet again, your niece is too busy texting to take care of her shrieking child, and your daughter-in-law once again avoids helping with the dishes, try not to let your resentment simmer on the stove. Rather, hold them close knowing that, like a snowflake, every moment is unique, fleeting, and irreplaceable.

Merry Christmas,
Joy (Mrs. Bruce) Burnett & the entire
Burnett Family

Ready ourselves for when He comes for us

To the Editor:

As I sit at the table drinking my coffee and listening to the morning news on the radio I wonder what tomorrow will bring. As I listen to the Hymn "The King is Coming" I want to share my thoughts with you.

But, I wonder if I thank God enough for all He does for me everyday. Without His loving care this world would be in worse shape than it really is.

I do believe the end of the world is closer than many people think. My thoughts are not based on politics, but on my religious beliefs.

People, ready or not the King is coming so please get ready. We don't know when, but The King is Coming to take us home.

As Christmas time approaches it brings to my mind the birth of Jesus Christ as a baby in the manger. Now, we should ready ourselves for the time He comes as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to take us home.

Please have a Merry Christmas.

Kay Atkins
Belleville

Thanks for coming to our first anniversary

To the Editor:

We would like to thank you for coming to our first year anniversary party! You show a lot of dedication to the city and small businesses. We put a lot of time into the candy shoppe and the party was fun to put together.

It is individuals like you who make us smile and memories are created for years to come.

May Grace and Blessings be in your path.

Dorene Mroz
Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe
Owner

Santa's Mailbox

Santa's Mailbox is outside next to the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce for the children to send their letters to the Jolly Old Elf. The Chamber is located at 248 Main Street, Belleville.

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VBT LDFA

(continued from page 2)

in July. [He did come from New York for a meeting, but it was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.]

"I heard a dog and pony show that he's going to jump on a plane for a meeting ... Why would he pay for a plane ticket if he's not sure the meeting would be held?" Delaney asked.

Akers was directed to further investigate the process of teleconferences.

In other business at the Nov. 10 meeting, the LDFA:

- Heard Akers ask for a special meeting with a closed-door session to talk about the sale of property. The LDFA has been talking about sale of a small parcel on Ecorse Road for 20 months. Chairman Dotson said the township attorney said since they have an appraisal they need to go into closed session to talk about other sensitive items, but they will go back into open meeting to vote. He said it will be a transparent process. Former Supervisor Paul White said everything the township sells must go out for bids. Delaney has been pushing for progress on the land sale since he said he is interested in buying it;

- Heard Dotson ask for the special meeting to be set soon to give members a legal update – in closed-door session – on the Visteon law suit. Peters said at the last two meetings he has asked for a copy of the law suit to see what each lawyer said and has yet to receive the suit. He said he also wants an update of the estimate when

the LDFA goes into shortfall on the bonds. Combs said, as of the recent sale of some bonds to get better interest rates and the LDFA payment of \$4.5 million as a part of that transaction, the shortfall date that was April 2018 now is April 2019. Peters said they have to watch the date very closely and the LDFA needs to give options to the township board on a millage or bond;

- Acknowledged the township board's appointment of Danylo Dobriansky and the re-appointment of Leonard Armstrong to the LDFA board, both for four-year terms. The acknowledgement of the township board's appointment of Khalil Rahal to the LDFA board was considered moot since his appointment by Wayne County is being changed to someone else;

- Heard Delaney say he wanted more meetings since "this is the most important group in the township." He said when Arthur Mullen was Director of Planning and Economic Development, the LDFA meetings were cut to six a year. He said four have been cancelled this year. Chairman Dotson said he will look into the issue and, "I'll take personal responsibility for our schedule"; and

- Approved the next regular meeting as Jan. 12 and at that meeting a modified schedule will be approved. The issue of meeting dates came up when Akers presented a list of 2016 meeting dates that had one meeting in 2014 and three of the meetings in consecutive months, when they are supposed to be every other month. A new schedule will be approved in January.

VBT board discusses, at length, supervisor's appointment of Delaney

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Although Van Buren Township Supervisor Linda Combs is off on an eight-week leave of absence, she sent word that she was appointing John Delaney to the Local Development Finance Authority for a term to expire Aug. 12, 2017.

All that was left was for the township board to approve Supervisor Combs' appointment so the LDFA board could be fully seated. That seat has been vacant since 2011.

At Monday's work-study session, the board discussed the appointment for half an hour, when usually the supervisor's appointments are quickly approved.

A vote on the appointment had been set for the Dec. 1 regular meeting, but the board delayed it for two weeks, to the Dec. 15 meeting.

Treasurer Sharry Budd and Clerk Leon Wright are taking turns chairing the meetings in Combs' absence and on Monday it was Clerk Wright's turn.

Clerk Wright announced the only item on the agenda to discuss was Supervisor Combs' appointment of Delaney and that he felt Delaney would be an asset to the LDFA.

Trustee Reggie Miller asked in surprise, "John Delaney was approved by Linda Combs?" and Clerk Wright said, "Yes."

Trustee Brenda McClanahan started a long criticism of Delaney, asking whether Delaney was willing to collaborate with others because he tends to dominate rather than collaborate.

"Is he willing to keep confidential information confidential?" she asked, saying once he is appointed, "He represents us!"

"If he accepts the appointment, he must go by the by-laws, which includes confidentiality," Clerk Wright said, referring to information from closed-door sessions on law suits.

Trustee Miller asked how the LDFA board feels and Clerk Wright said they were in support of his appointment.

"We should be looking for somebody to work as a team member," Trustee McClanahan continued. "I've seen the angry, pushy, bully side of John. Would he be a good board member? I don't think so... John's been arrested for upsetting a board meeting. I don't see him working as

a team. It could end up being a disaster or it could work."

Then she asked if Delaney was a resident of Van Buren Township or does he live in Canton.

Clerk Wright said he checked records and Delaney is a resident of the township.

"I don't think we have too many perfect board members. It's a very important committee ..." Clerk Wright said and Trustee Jeff Jahr corrected him, saying the LDFA is an *authority*.

Clerk Wright corrected himself and then said, "You have to be open. You can allow people to show they can change."

Trustee McClanahan said all her negative comments were just, "my opinion."

Trustee Phil Hart said there is a law suit in progress and it needs to remain confidential or it can damage the township's case, referring to the suit against Visteon.

Delaney was allowed to reply and he said he knows about law suits and confidentiality and has been involved in the LDFA for the last 8-10 years.

He recalled when six VBT board members were arrested and held in jail for eight days in the 1980s.

"They had passion and went to jail for a reason," Delaney recalled.

Delaney said LDFA chairman Michael Dotson, and LDFA members Doug Peters and Leonard Armstrong support his appointment to the seat that has been vacant since 2011.

"I'm not looking for a board seat," Delaney said, referring to the township board. "I'm volunteering to look out for the residents of the township... Yes, there was an issue with Mr. White and that was taken care of." He referred to his arrest and jury conviction of disrupting a meeting run by Supervisor Paul White.

He said he lives on Mida Drive in the township with 28,000 other residents. He said he owns four businesses and attends 85% of the township board meetings and more than 90% of the LDFA meetings.

Delaney noted that his appointment is being scrutinized by the board more than board members looked at Combs' recent unprovoked replacement of Dr. Carl Johnson on the planning commission.

Former Supervisor White spoke on behalf of Delaney's appointment, reading the state law that shows how someone can be removed from the authority for official misconduct or dereliction of duty – so, if he doesn't work out, he can be removed.

White said Delaney's mother told him that John will study an issue without stopping, 24 hours without sleep, taking notes all the while.

"I would vote for John in a heartbeat," White said, adding that Delaney sometimes goes off on tangents, but if he stays on the issue he is good.

Resident CeJay Marshall challenged Delaney to name his four businesses and
(continued on page 10)

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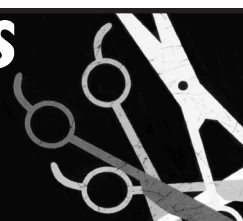
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Delaney

(continued from page 9)

say how many employees he has. He said he thinks character is important and he said Delaney tends to “embellish,” which he says is a nice way to say he lies.

Clerk Wright said a resident doesn’t have to name his businesses and being a resident is the only requirement.

Delaney reeled off the names of his construction, electric, sign and graphics businesses.

Trustee Miller said, “I hate to bring this up...” and then brought up his prior felony conviction in Oklahoma. She also said Delaney was a little ADHD.

Delaney said the felony conviction is under consideration for a pardon in Oklahoma. He also said President Obama signed a bill, passed by Gov. Snyder and Mayor Duggan called “Remove the Box,” which says those applying for jobs do not have to say if they have a criminal history, which would prejudice their consideration.

He said he opened his mouth in court and the judge punished him. He said seven years later he was arrested in Belleville and taken back to Oklahoma. The case involved a questionable check.

“I’ve never seen this group look into appointments like this before,” he said.

“We’ve never had a convicted felon sitting on a board before,” Trustee McClanahan retorted.

“You can’t know that,” Delaney said to her comment.

Marshall said Delaney wouldn’t name his four businesses and Clerk Wright said he already did. Marshall said he named them too fast.

Combs’ executive assistant Lianne Clair said the appointment amounts to six regular meetings in 2016 and four in 2017 for a total of 10 meetings.

At the end of the meeting, Diane Madigan asked the board several questions, including who authorized giving seven days notice of layoff to the police patrol/dispatch union president (Clerk Wright said no one from the board of trustees authorized that and it was a misunderstanding); why is a private business, The Driver’s Advantage, running a business from Fire Station 1 (it is being checked into but Supervisor Combs signed off on it); why Fire Chief Dan Besson has another job teaching at Schoolcraft on Wednesdays when his contract calls for prior approval by the township supervisor for a second job; why Clerk Wright was taken to the FBI Academy Luncheon at a cost to the township of \$25, with Wright

saying Director Laurain signed him up and he couldn’t go and Laurain took Lt. Bazy instead; and why Laurain spent \$1,023 for three nights lodging at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago for the International Association of Chiefs of Police 2015 convention. Trustee Miller said that was “very reasonable” for Chicago.

After the work/study session the board went into a closed-door session to discuss ongoing negotiations with the Michigan Association of Fire Fighters.

More Letters

VBT is Premier Community for a few

To the Editor:

Re: Premier Community

As former Chair of the Citizen’s Public Safety Committee, I continue to receive calls and notices from residents about their safety concerns.

Last week I received a call concerning the township’s decision to possibly drop the fire department’s duty crew in exchange for a paid-on-call department. If this is the township’s attempt to get rid of blended-rate police officers, response times will no doubt go through the roof.

An incident occurred on Nov. 15 in which an elderly woman had collapsed in the snow at Meijer and the nearest HVA ambulance was at 5 Mile and Middlebelt.

I also received notice that the Fire Chief, Dan Besson, is allowing a private business owned by a VBT police officer to operate a driving school out of a township fire hall.

And another notice that Besson is teaching at Schoolcraft College during normal business hours. This call was made by an irate resident that can’t understand why Besson wants to hire a Fire Marshall, a fire inspector, and an administrative assistant when Anthony Karver did all three of these positions himself. Firing Karver and the subsequent Whistle Blower case will no doubt continue to cause anger and low morale with the residents and fire fighters as long as Besson is the Fire Chief.

There have been calls that the township has issued Besson three vehicles and his wife was seen driving one.

The calls and contacts do not stop with the Fire Department. Last week I was notified the Police Union President sent a letter to the union members that he received an official 7-day notification for lay-offs from “the employer.”

As of today, I have no knowledge of who the letter refers to as “the employer” but will try to find out through FOIA.

There have been calls about the safety of our patrol officers and the vehicles they drive. One traffic officer was involved in a crash in which the airbag did not deploy causing severe injuries. This lawsuit is currently making its way through the court system as the township knew the airbags had been disconnected.

And finally, Director Laurain’s wasteful spending of \$1,023 for three-days lodging at an IACP convention in October.

The only people living under *premier* conditions are Laurain and Besson.

We the tax payers can choose to elect another group of officials next year, but in the meantime, the current officials need to fire the Director and Fire Chief.

If the Board plans another attempt at 6.5 mills or even a renewal of current 4 mills, something needs to be done about blended rate. Change the charter or do whatever it takes to separate police and fire.

Diane Madigan

Van Buren Township

Lots of things to do at the Belleville Museum

To the Editor:

The 20th annual Belleville Area Museum Festival of Holiday Trees will run through Dec. 29. Over 50 trees, wreaths, and assorted décor offer wonderful photo opportunities as well as five Silent Auction Trees to view and bid on.

In addition, our two Children’s Ornament Workshops will be held Dec. 12 and 19, at 12 p.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.. Reservations strongly suggested. Free pictures with Santa are also on these dates, noon – 4 p.m.

Have a history buff on your list? Available in the museum’s gift shop for the holiday season are Christmas ornaments, museum/vintage area-t-shirts (and hoodies), vintage postcards, and our annual Belleville Area Historical Society calendar featuring “Vintage Local Newspaper Ads.” The calendar will be available at the museum for \$5 and includes admission!

Additional vendors include Sumpter

Township Hall, Sumpter Ace Hardware, Belleville City Hall, Van Buren Township Hall, and the Belleville Area District Library for \$7 each.

The third edition of “WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE: A History of Van Buren Township,” is also on sale for \$35, regularly \$45. Come in and get your shopping done today!

The museum is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 3 p.m.-7 p.m. and Thursdays and Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Group tours by appointment.

We will be closed Dec. 23-28 and Dec. 30 – Jan. 4. For additional information, please call the museum at (734) 697-1944. Christmas Tree Silent Auction bidding ends Dec. 15.

Proceeds from the auction will support the projects and programs of the Belleville Area Museum.

Katie Dallos, director

Belleville Area Museum

Birthdays

Dec. 1 – Rochelle McArthur

Dec. 3 – Pam Johnson, Rosemary Loria

Dec. 4 – Amber Brendtke

Dec. 5 – Justin Juriga

Dec. 6 – Tara Steward, LeRoy Schmeltz

Dec. 7 – Karen LaMothe, Peggy Breen

Dec. 9 – Kathleen Springer, Robert McKenna

Dec. 10 – Kathy Kulwicki

Dec. 11 – Lori Demond, Ruth Duda

Dec. 16 – Christene McArthur

Dec. 25 – Constance Genevieve Riggs

Dec. 29 – Vicki White

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EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Belleville Presbyterian Church will be holding the Eighth Annual Community Old Fashioned Christmas Service in the historic Martha-Mary Chapel on Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 in the evening and Christmas Eve Service Thursday, December 24th at 5:00 in the evening. You are cordially invited to join us for a service of Lessons and Carols, and for a time of fellowship afterwards.

Special music will be offered by Seek to Be Ministries, a singing group that regularly graces worship at Belleville Presbyterian Church, along with other gifted musicians, instrumentalists and singers.

Take a step back in time and come enjoy a simple, moving worship service in an historic setting as you finalize your holiday preparations. A freewill offering will be taken to support those in our community who are experiencing need during the holidays.

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☆ Festival of Holiday Trees

Thru Dec 29 Belleville Area Museum

☆ Jingle Bell 5K/Fun Run **Saturday Dec 5**

9:45am Horizon Park by VBPS Education Foundation

☆ Winter Fest

Friday Dec 4 & Saturday Dec 5 DOWNTOWN

Presented by Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce
Ice Sculptures, Music, Soup Crawl, Carriage Rides

Lighted Parade Saturday 6pm Followed by Visits
with Santa & Living Nativity at Methodist Church

Fireworks Over the Lake Saturday 8pm

Ice Skating at 4th St Square Friday-Sunday by the BYC
Gingerbread Men Decorating Saturday 3:30pm at
the Belleville Area District Library

☆ Children's Ornament Workshops &

Visits with Santa **Saturdays: Dec 12 & Dec 19**
Belleville Area Museum

☆ Holiday Concerts

Saturday Dec 12 7pm Belleville Community Chorus

Friday Dec 18 7:30pm Belleville Community Band

Both concerts at Belleville Methodist Church



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More Letters

Make this the most memorable Christmas

To the Editor:

The Holidays are upon us and what used to be a time of celebration and family and friends has become a quest for the perfect present.

Let's remember the theme for Winterfest, "A Norman Rockwell Christmas," a time when the perfect gift was giving of oneself. If ever there were a time to flaunt small businesses, these troubled times would be it.

I think we forget the perfect gift is not the Tickle Me Elmo or the Buick we see on tv with the bow, but rather the pillow made from the loved one's shirt or the frame around the family portrait or even as simple as having the entire family together to put the star atop the tree and light it.

Small businesses have that ability to help you speak from your own heart. Most often as you walk into a small business you deal with the owner, and if not you still deal with a knowledgeable associate that can help you express what you truly want to.

I have yet to read or see a news channel report on a brawl in a small business by people that just couldn't live without that perfect item. This is because not everyone is the same nor is every small business.

So this Christmas take the time to express what you really want, support those businesses that support their families and local economy and truly enjoy your shopping experience this year.

Remember that it is the thought that counts and, really, how much thought is there in picking a Blu-ray player or 90" tv from China off the shelf?

Reflect over the year from the last Christmas and express how grateful you are for your friends and family while supporting those that are so proud to serve you and your friends, family and community and

make this the most memorable Christmas you can!

Jeff Vernon
Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe
Belleville

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The Belleville-Area Independent New Website is Now Online! Visit us @ bellevilleareaindependent.com

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We are located in the Professional Building (the old movie theater building) across from Mr. Goofy's Car Wash.

Orphan of the Week

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

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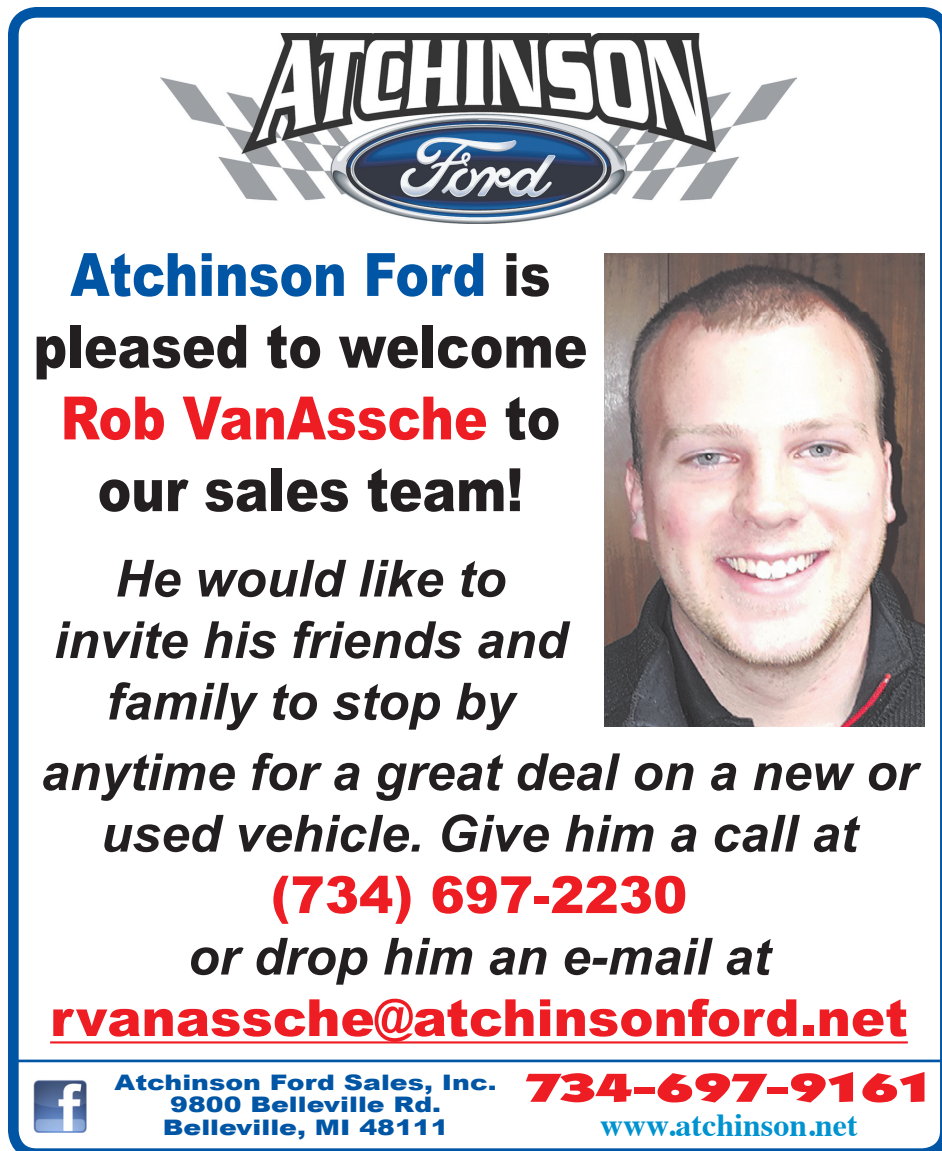
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Winter Fest 2015

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Winter Fest 2015

Friday, December 4—Sunday, December 6

Events Schedule

Friday Night (Museum Area)
6pm-Animal Magic
7-8pm- Lac LaBelle 8pm

Ice Rink (4th Street Square)
Fri: 12-4pm, Sat: 9a-9pm, Sun: 9a-2pm

Jingle Bell Run (Horizon Park)
Saturday—9:45am

Craft Show (VBT Gym)
Saturday—9am-3pm

Ice Sculptures (Main Street)
Begin Saturday

Bates Hot Dog Stand (Museum Area)
Saturday 2pm

Soup Crawl (4th Street Tent)
Saturday 2-6pm

Glow Works Downtown

Live Ice Carver (Chamber Area)
Saturday 2-3pm

Kids Fun Zone—Saturday, 2-6pm (Chamber Area)
Bounce House, Crafts & more!

Carriage Rides (Downtown)
Saturday 3-5:30 pm

Caroling (Museum Area)
Saturday 3-5:45 pm

Gingerbread Cookie Decorating (Library)
Saturday 4:30 pm until gone

Light Parade (Downtown)
Saturday 6pm

Following Parade:
Museum-Christmas Tree Lighting
First United Methodist Church—Living Nativity
First United Methodist Church—Santa

Angel of Hope Ceremony (Hillside Cemetery) Sunday: 7pm

More Letters

Would you like to help Sumpter children?

To the Editor:

The 2015 holiday season is upon us. My staff and I are preparing for the annual Sumpter Township Children's Christmas Event. This event is at no cost to the residents and is designated for the children of Sumpter Township which has become a mainstay tradition for over 20 years.

Every year, I, along with the many volunteers, strive to ensure that on this special day every child in Sumpter receives a small gift (approximately a \$10 gift), a hot meal (hot dogs, chips and a beverage), holiday entertainment, and a photo with Santa.

Without a cash donation from special people as yourself, whom give generously to help support this event, the Sumpter Township children's holiday tradition would not happen. This would be such a disappointment to the children.

This year's celebration will be on Dec. 16 at 6 p.m., located at 23501 Sumpter Road in the Sumpter Community Center.

I am expecting approximately 300 children to register this year to receive a gift and approximately 500 people to attend.

I would love to see you there to show our gratitude for your donation. We realize how tight funds have become for everyone. If it is not possible to send a monetary donation, please consider donating in another fashion.

Thank you for your support.

John W. Morgan
Sumpter Township Supervisor

Churches gather for ecumenical service

To the Editor:

"Making Thanksgiving Thanksliving" was the message at a recent gathering of many local churches for a Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at the Belleville First United Methodist Church.

A wonderful group of clergy shared

the duties of the service that was very well attended. Each pastor recognized the different denominations for coming together to worship.

Thank you all for what we hope will become an annual tradition.

Belleville First United Methodist Church
Worship Committee

"Out of clutter, find simplicity."
— Albert Einstein

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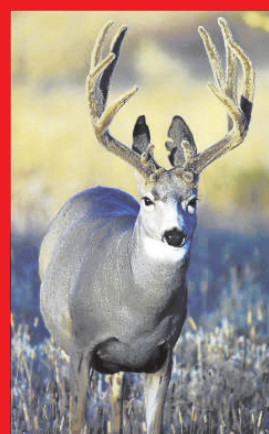
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**WE LOOK FORWARD
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More Letters

This area needs 24-hour ER/urgent care

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the citizens of Belleville for allowing me to have the opportunity to run for mayor as a write-in candidate and for the votes I received. I knew going in as a write-in candidate I would have a huge road to climb, but it was enlightening and good lessons learned for running in four years to get my name on the ballot.

I enjoyed meeting the people of Belleville, as well, and learned one valuable lesson: they all care about the community. Special thank you to the Chamber of Commerce, Paul, for meet the candidates and giving us an opportunity to meet each other and discuss what our hopes and inspirations are for the community of Belleville. Thank you to the newspaper and editor Rosemary Oztzman for all her time and articles on the candidates. She did an outstanding job and it was a please to drop my articles off to the newspaper.

I would like to congratulate Kerreen Conley on winning the mayor race. I hope she will seek out those that were running for ideas to improve on the city of Belleville. As I sat at Meet the Candidates, I thought the panel had some impressive ideas as each and every one was talking about what they would do for the community.

I thought to myself, what a great community this would be if we all worked together with our ideas and got things accomplished. It sure would be a terrific community that people would want to

come and visit or move to.

The needs would be back in the community to serve the people of Belleville that the city is lacking. One thing I have learned is that in any city it isn't just made by who runs the towns and meetings. It is thinking outside the box, and just doing it, working together as a community and getting the things accomplished to make Belleville a superior town and servicing the people of Belleville and surrounding communities, as well.

One of the issues I was running on as a write-in candidate for mayor was an emergency room/urgent care opened 24 hours to serve Belleville and the surrounding communities. Since I have moved to Belleville almost six years ago, I have missed the close proximity of a local Beaumont/Oakwood emergency room that was on the corner of Warren and Canton Center roads. While I still take myself and family members there for their care, we need one just like that in Belleville.

Everyone I talked to thought it was a good idea. Think about how often you have had to run yourself or a family member to the emergency room late at night some 30 minutes to an hour away. How you stayed there while they worked on yourself or someone else and how exhausted you were when you got home.

It would save lives if we had one locally as we would cut down on that driving distance for the injured or sick, be able to stabilize them, and transfer them to the hospital of choice.

So, I decided while I was running for mayor I would start to put the seeds in Beaumont/Oakwood's mind about an emergency room/urgent care operating 24 hours in Belleville. The physicians I have talked with thought it was an excellent idea that they started to give me their business cards and corporate numbers to call.

I can only hope that Mayor Kereen Conley, the city council, and building committee would be willing to work with the physicians, Beaumont/Oakwood on expanding the existing building on Second Street to add an emergency room, radiology, lab, and pharmacy. Options would be to expand up to a second story or expand out into the parking lot toward Main Street. I will leave that to the building committee and the powers of Beaumont/Oakwood.

If that won't work, let's find a place in downtown for the emergency room/24-hour urgent care center to go. While I might not be mayor, I can market Belleville as a wonderful community that needs to have an emergency room/urgent care opened 24 hours. Hopefully, in the near future we will see one as this area is growing and needs one desperately to serve the people of the community.

Carol Sundell, RN, LNC

Former write-in candidate for Mayor Belleville

High-heel Mafia retain control of city hall

To the Editor:

As predicted, the high-heel Mafia retained the control of city hall. No sour grapes here, as being a write-in candidate, I expected that I would not be any factor in the race for mayor. I had hoped to help take the race a bit closer by stealing some votes, but 10 voters would not affect other candidates anyway.

Former Mayor Richard Smith, who was working as an election official, summed it up when he stated that the absentee voters would make the election, and he was right.

Regardless the politicking up to election day, these voters already knew how they were voting, thus negating any real effort by the losing candidates. The same old status quo won in the end. Those who chose not to vote can no longer lament another four years of the same old politics. Unless we make the voting process an exciting process, with public participation, there will be no changing the system. The official campaigning dates need to be lengthened and the requirement to have "x" amount of voters to sign the election sheets, harkens back to limitations of black and women voters. It does not cost any more to print the additional names on the ballot. We need more "meet the candidate" events, even at the high school, as to bring young people into the ranks of future voters. As it is, the voters are merely voting for "names," rather than the issues at hand. A broken system, indeed.

As per issues at hand, I remember during the summer time, I spoke to a high-ranking official at 6 Main and in part of the

conversation, we got to talking about the upcoming elections; the official stated that the mayor was risking political suicide by bringing up a \$10 million bond to fix our roads.

I kept that information in the back of my mind. As the summer waned down, still no bond issue came up from the mayor's camp, so imagine my surprise that it was brought up, fully researched and proposed by all the officials of 6 Main. They knew the election was a given and had all been in on yet another fleecing of the poor taxpayers of our city. They knew, all of them, it was never going to be an election issue, because it was never going to be presented to the voters for fear it would be that same political suicide they feared. Well, to the 300+ voters of the re-elected mayor, you get the same big tax bill the rest of us are going to get. The real question is just how many "knew" of this façade and were willing to keep voting the way they always have?

To the voters of Belleville, thanks for your votes. The rest of those who are registered to vote and chose not to, thanks for nothing.

Bob Balderston
City of Belleville

Survey needs your input for VBT Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Van Buren Charter Township and the Parks and Recreation Department are updating the Master Plan for its parks and recreation system, which will help guide developments and improvements over the next five years -- 2016-2021.

The township is gathering input from the community, interested public, and users of the parks and recreation system through an on-line survey.

You are invited to take the survey (which will take about 10 minutes), to provide your feedback on the township's parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services, as well as to comment on any improvements or new initiatives you would like to see in the future.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9R5JB12>

The survey will remain open through Friday, Dec. 18. If you have any questions, contact the Van Buren Parks and Recreation Department at (734) 699-8921.

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AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE is hereby given that on Dec. 12, 2015, at 12:00 p.m., Full House Self Storage at 7886 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, misc. Eilene Rush, N-810 & O-715; Terry Booth, L-537; Denise Hendrickson-McFay, F-253; Charles Washington, L-501; Lisa Clark, P-775; Michelle Poloskey, P-784; Charles Borque, D-155; Joyce Price, R-938; Belleville Lock and Key, S-943; Troy Fairley, D-158; Leonard Wojtyna, F-275; Kevin Conway, R-922; Andrea C. Randle, I-425 Belleville Cougars.

Published: Nov. 26, 2015, Dec. 3, 2015

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

COMMUNITY FREE WILL Baptist, 6945 McKean Road. Vendors, crafters, nearly new shop. Lunch served. Bake Sale. Fried apple & cherry pies. December 12, 10am-4pm.

FOR SALE

ABSOLUTELY BRAND NEW!

QUEEN PILLOW TOPS

Mattress Set. Still in wrapper! Never Been Used! No Room to Store. \$195

Call (734) 219-9715

CRAFTSMAN/CONTEMPORARY oak buffet, \$150. Twin bed with pineapple posts, \$50. Steamer trunk, \$75. 2 ceramic lamps, 1 cream, 1 navy blue, \$10 ea. Gas dryer, \$100. (734) 673-1854.

ROTTWEILER PUPPIES. 7 weeks old. 4 males, \$450 ea & 5 females, \$500 ea. Have first set of shots, declawed & tails clipped. (734) 559-4553.

LOST

Lost on 11/4 off S. Service Drive. White, male Chihuahua. Crooked tail, blue eyes & blue color. Answers to Pipiechulu. (734) 299-1612.

FOUND

GRAY & WHITE tiger cat. Very friendly. Found on Hoeft Road. (734) 674-4425.

"There's a difference between a philosophy and a bumper sticker."
- Charles M. Schulz

VEHICLE FOR SALE

'87 OLDS CUTLASS Ciera. 45,000 actual miles, p/s, p/b, a/c, \$5,500 OBO. Master Tow dolly. New tires w/ tie downs & tow lights, \$995 OBO. Tony (734) 309-5732.

2001 FORD EXPLORER SPORT 4x4. Only 106,000 miles. Looks and runs great. \$2,800. Ray (734) 740-9552

1990 CHEVY ASTRO VAN. Fair condition, 4.3L motor, new tires, aluminum wheels. \$550 OBO. (734) 288-6895

1997 GMC SONOMA PICK-UP. Lady owner, new trans lines, brake lines, fuel lines, fuel filter, new tires. \$1,500 OBO. Shelby (734) 693-5336.

"History has shown us that strength may be useless when faced with terrorism."
- Capt. Jean-Luc Picard,
Star Trek: The Next Generation
(The High Ground - 1990)

WANTED

WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladex's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697- 5600

WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladex's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600

FARM ACREAGE WANTED. Paying \$80/acre and up. (269) 506-2018

SAM'S BAR in Belleville is helping a local family this Christmas. Children ages 9 & 16. For gift suggestions call (734) 699-8526. Monetary donations accepted.

FREE

FREE TO GOOD HOME. Three cats. 2 males 6 months old and 1 female 2 years old. For info call (734) 219-2150

Notice to Advertisers:

The Belleville-Area Independent will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The Independent's liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the Independent be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

Celebrate the Holidays with a new home from Franklin!

Security deposit waived when you purchase a Franklin Home! Call one of our associates before December 31!*

Visit our website for a list of homes for purchase or lease starting at \$550
www.FranklinHomeSales.com



Franklin

Manufactured Homes • Communities

Belleville Manor

734-699-7700

Belleville Road just 1 mile north of I-94

Van Buren Estates

734-697-6159

3 miles south of I-94 at the Rawsonville Exit

Mohawk

734-513-4108

Joy Road between Middlebelt and Inkster



*WAC. Restrictions apply. No cash value. See a Franklin Homes associate for details.

NEED HELP?

Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows applications for Christmas assistance ends Dec 4TH

Application deadline is 3pm, Dec 4th

Forms are available at the Van Buren Township Police Dept. main window (46425 Tyler Rd, Belleville)

or
Printable applications are available online at the Van Buren Township website:

www.vanburen-mi.org

For more details please see the township website or

Call Pam Fleming at 734-699-8934 (9am-3pm)

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



SERVICES

A&L SERVICES

Home Improvement & Handyman Service

Painting, Drywall, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath. Serving Belleville Since 1995. Call Aaron Schultz @ 734-740-0628

M.D. APPLIANCE SERVICE

Refrigerators • Washers
Dryers • Ranges
\$20 House Call

Phone (734) 782-3354

FIREARM TRANSFERS

Consignments-Buy-Sell-Used-New

Email: FFL48111@gmail.com

Call: 734-740-0746

CARPET HEADQUARTERS

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

- Free Padding with purchase of Carpet and Installation.
- Free Estimates & Consultation
- 50% Off Furniture Removal
- 50% Off Take Up Old Carpet & Disposal
- Repairs and Restretching.
- All Major Credit Cards Accepted.

Phil @ 734-612-7570

LOCAL HANDYMAN - SOME Jobs too LARGE - NO JOB too SMALL. Residential Power Washing. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224

DEPENDABLE LAWN SERVICE. Fall lawn & leaf clean-up. (734) 587-2410 or (734) 693-4712

CARPET HEADQUARTERS Holiday Special. Free padding w/purchase of carpet & installation. Free estimates, fast friendly service, repairs, restretching, since 1979. Phil (734) 612-7570

THE BELLEVILLE
INDEPENDENT NOW ACCEPTS
CREDIT CARDS!
(Minimum \$5 Purchase, Classified Ads Excluded)



INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

Looking for a Job? We have position for you. Local CDL Divers in Belleville, MI Wanted.

- Base Salary
- Great Benefits
- Paid Vacations
- Medical Insurance

2 years of experience needed.

More information, Please Call
956.568.8649 or 956.857.1590
Visit us on www.sti-laredo.com



AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800

TFN

PART-TIME on-site Maintenance. Own tools required. \$12-\$15/hour. Prior experience desirable. Inquires to: Carrie Martin (734) 459-5440 or cmartin@herriman.net.

12/19



WANTED

Goodfellows Accepting Donations thru Dec 4th

The Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows are accepting donations of non-perishable food and paper products for their 2015 Christmas Food and Family Essentials Drive.

Donation Boxes are available at the following locations during regular business hours:

- Van Buren Twp Hall Main Lobby (46425 Tyler Rd)
- Van Buren Twp Senior Center Lobby (46425 Tyler Rd)
 - Belleville City Hall Lobby (6 Main St)
 - Leo's Coney Island (9624 Belleville Rd)

A Donation Box is also available 24hrs/7days at:

- Van Buren Twp Police Dept Lobby (46425 Tyler Rd)

If you wish to make a monetary donation you may drop it off at the Van Buren Police Dept main window or mail it to:

Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows
c/o Pam Fleming
46425 Tyler Rd
Belleville, MI 48111

Please make checks payable to Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows.
WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Pam Fleming, Coordinator
Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows



Independent photo by Robert Mytych

More than 30 people attended the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce's ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 20 at Mail Center One, located in the Belle Plaza on Sumpter Road. Owner Aminata Ware and family members John, Gabrella, Mary, John, Elliot and John Ware II were in attendance to cut the ribbon, along with chamber members, government officials and the public.

A crowd of local candy-lovers attended Saturday night's celebration to mark the first anniversary in business of Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe at 111 South Street in Belleville. Among those at the party were, from left, Amber Mroz holding her son 19-month-old Ethan Mroz, Jeff Vernon, Dorene Mroz, Anesia Saunders, Serena Duncan, Shawn Steger, Jenny Hawkins, and six-year-old Jesse Knox. Each guest took home a bag of "sugar plums" and other gifts. The shop features old-time candies and personal attention to customers.



A living nativity scene with real animals and live actors will be on the lawn of First United Methodist Church on Saturday, Dec. 5, immediately following the Parade of Lights. Santa will be inside the church. First United Methodist is at the corner of Roys and Charles streets in downtown Belleville.

District Library: New building favored by people at special meeting

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After another long discussion about three options for a library upgrade, people attending the Nov. 24 special meeting of the Belleville Area District Library Board seemed to favor constructing a new building in downtown Belleville rather than adding a new part to the present library building.

Retired Belleville architect George Craven said, "I think the public deserves something more than a building cobbled together.

"I'm responsible for one of these," he said of a new building on an old building. He said he was in favor of a new building and tearing the old one down.

"I think the public deserves a lot better," Craven said.

"The public deserves what they're willing to pay for," Dr. David Wilson said, adding, "We sure took a drubbing on that," referring to the voter turndown of the proposed 45,000 square foot library on the lake.

Library architect Dan Whisler said the present library is 10,760 square feet and in 2005 consultant Anders Dahlgren gave an estimate of space that would be needed for the library of 47,000 square. There was an update to 48,000 square feet after that.

He said the 48,000 square feet got reduced to 45,000 square feet for the

2014 "drubbing" and so the library board has reduced the size of the new library to 30,000 square feet.

Whisler said he and Library Director Mary Jo Suchy and Deputy Director Hilary Savage sat down together and cut more than a third of what was intended for the 45,000 square foot building.

"We cut fat and then cut muscle and bone," Whisler said.

He went over the cuts to make it fit into a 30,000 square foot building. All three of the options now under discussion are the same size: 30,000 square feet.

On Dec. 4, the library board plans a field trip to the Dexter District Library to study a successful 30,000 square foot library.

Members of the audience asked what the new library would look like and board president Mary Jane Dawson said it was too early for that part of the plan.

"We'll get to that in time," agreed board secretary and building committee chairwoman Joy Cichewicz.

"I like option C," said a woman in the audience, opting for the plan for a totally new building in the middle of Fourth Street. "It's not like the present library is a 200-year-old building that has historic value."

"Without knowing the cost, it's too early

to judge ... and not knowing what it looks like," said a man in the audience, who had questioned the architect in detail on the size of the building and the services.

Board member John Juriga said, "Right now we get 10,000 people in the library a month and we will get 30,000 once we enlarge."

Board member Sharon Peters, who could not attend the meeting, sent a message that as chairwoman of the Marketing Committee she is in the process of planning an event for Friday, Jan. 29, and for everyone to mark their calendars. She will explain more at the Dec. 8 regular board meeting.

Cichewicz explained that the Nov. 13 meeting with city officials was cancelled by the city because of a conflict and the meeting was set, instead, for Nov. 25 (the day after this meeting). The library officials hoped to get feedback from the city on whether Fourth Street could be vacated and other preliminary issues.

Cichewicz said they did share preliminary library plans with the city and the DPW shared information on the utilities with the library architect, which was information the library didn't have before.

Whisler said he had a telephone conversation with DPW Director Keith Tackett and he confirmed "what we thought we knew" and Tackett thought vacating Fourth Street was do-able. Moving utilities under Fourth Street was discussed, with water lines being easier to move and the

sanitary sewer more involved.

Currently, the three library options being considered are: Option A for a new addition to the east of the present library; Option B for a new addition to the west of the present library; and Option C for a brand-new building in the middle of Fourth Street with the present library being demolished after the new library is built. Each option includes about 100 parking spaces.

Whisler presented a chart showing the estimated costs of preparing the land for construction, including land acquisition: Option A - \$1,063,896; Option B - \$419,982; and Option C - \$1,091,751.

For Options B and C, moving the overhead electrical lines running down the alley to underground would be "highly desirable to essential," at a cost of about \$652,302 for Option B and \$232,320 for Option C.

When board member Juriga asked architect Whisler which option he would choose, Whisler sidestepped to say it boils down to, "What do we think the public will support?"

"I don't have a favorite. All are do-able and all have pros and cons," Whisler said, adding they should choose "the one we think the community will support. Otherwise, we're just spending time together."

At the next meeting of the board at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 8, the bond counsel will be discussing options for bonds. The board is planning to put a question before voters in November 2016.

More Letters

Difference between Judges Parrott, Oakley

To the Editor:

On Nov. 9, 34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley threw out the VBT complaint of my refusal to submit supplying a DNA sample for profiling under the new statute. I would like to make it clear for those interested my reasons for refusing – and the reasons for the court's decision.

Certain factions in the VBT Police Dept. have made several attempts to harass my livelihood, freedom, and general well-being – and in this case, tried to misread the new law, effective July 1, 2015, to the advantage of increasing police power. I stood against this as a violation of individual rights under the U.S. Constitution, specifically the 4th and 5th Amendments in the Bill of Rights (search and seizures, and testifying against self). The various "Due Process" clauses may also have been considered tangentially.

The statute itself states that the power of enforcement of the new DNA statute is by the judicial branch by issuing an order to do so. In other words, the cops aren't empowered to unilaterally demand DNA from an accused person unless probable cause is shown and the courts issue an order. In this case the police (executive power) usurped the power clearly delegated to the courts (nothing new for said factions in VBT Police).

Though Judge Oakley did not state his reasons for doing so, I'd like to think he did so purely upon the letter and Spirit of the U.S. Constitution, specifically the Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances doctrines. He has a good record of doing so, most recently with the woman whose car was searched without her (duress) permission by police without

probable cause – a "fishing expedition."

Judge Oakley is to be highly commended for honoring his oath of office to uphold the U.S. and Michigan Constitutions.

I did not refuse because I "was proud to be the first one to refuse" – they only told me that AFTER I refused; and pride had nothing to do with it. I felt it was MY DUTY to stand against it and was somewhat saddened because no one else had stood on their hind legs and refused.

After a long train of abuses, invariably pursuing the same object, it was decided to vent a bit of Parrott's dirt and get him recused from the case. He cannot be trusted to honor his Oath of office, but can be trusted to be exactly what he is, a TYRANT. Thank you, Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green. Parrot refused to even read the briefs and motions submitted to him, let alone look up the law, or follow well-established court rules on sentencing and motion procedure, summarily dismissing as "untimely" – and Judge Oakley did and I believe will continue to do so.

Let it be known, therefore, that I stand against the Brave New World Order, and stand for and upon the Principles and SPIRIT of the United States Constitution, and, if ever elected to public office, will take my oath to uphold and defend SERIOUSLY – because I HAVE read the document (and several documents explaining it) and understand it.

I would like to thank the knowledgeable electorate for turning down the 6.5 mill VBT Public Safety increase, though I am disappointed at the voter turnout and the margin of defeat, which I think will be encouraging for them to get this issue on the ballot again. Message to VBT Board and Public Safety: Clean up your act and get with the historical preservation of this nation.

As ever, Very Truly Yours
Jimmi Chapman
Across the Rubicon and
Both Banks of the Huron



City of Belleville Public Notice



2015 Holiday Decorating Contest



Light Up the Town for Christmas in Belleville 2015

Got the spirit? You don't need to sign up - just decorate the outside of your house with lights and seasonal decorations.

Then have your lights on from 6 PM to 10 PM on Wednesday and Thursday, December 9th and 10th. The contest judges will observe all areas of the City. An award will be presented for the best display in each of five areas:

- Victoria Commons
- Harbour Pointe
- The two mobile home parks
- The balance of the City
- Businesses

The winner in each area will be notified on Friday, Dec. 11th, and presentations will be made at the City Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 21st.

Sponsored by the City of Belleville
and The Belleville Area Independent

Publish: November 26 & December 3, 2015

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Bethany Bible Church on East Huron River Drive in Belleville will be holding its annual **Belleville Basketball at Bethany**, a basketball league for children in grades K-through 6th grade, starting Jan. 9 and running through March 5, 2016. The cost is \$30 per child and \$40 to register after Jan. 8. For registration forms, times, and more, go to www.bethanybiblechurch.com.

Winterfest week end starts Friday and there are just too many events to list in this column but you can find nearly all the schedules and details in ads by the Belleville Downtown Development Authority, the Belleville Chamber of Commerce, Things to Do, etc. in today's paper.

I'll be around for the night parade on Saturday as well as Friday's Animal Magic show because Mark Rosenthal doesn't get to perform here in town very often. I suggest you arrive early for the best seats.

When Mark was in my office last week, he was sporting a sling on his left arm after having shoulder surgery, I had to ask if he had a good and exciting story behind the incident, perhaps animal related, like one could assume. Nope, he was simply toting his wheeled refuse container back to his house last winter and wiped out and was holding off with surgery until after his performance schedule this year.

The doc told him that he wouldn't be hurting himself any further if he waited and so he did. He'll have plenty of help from family on stage for his show Friday but it'll be interesting what story he'll be telling the audience when he begins. Too funny. The show must go on! Thanks Mark, for bringing Animal Magic back to your hometown.

The **Belleville Community Chorus** will be performing at **Advent by Candle Light** this Sunday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. at the **St. Paul Lutheran Church** in New Boston. The event is free. Call (734) 753-9048.

There is still one more day to get your downtown store and business front decorated for the **Belleville Chamber's 8th**

Annual Main Street Business Decorating Contest as judging will take place today, Thursday, after 6 p.m. There's cash prizes for the winners who will be announced just prior to the start of Saturday's parade. Be sure to check out our downtown all lit up, including South Street. There's some great decorations up this year.

There are new owners and management at **Kabob Garden** the new name of the former Maya's Mediterranean Cuisine in the Davenport Center on East Columbia Avenue. Be sure to check out their ad in today's paper, which features discount coupons for lunch and dinner specials and free Hummus. They're open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. Check out their menu on their website at www.kabobgarden.com and call (734) 252-9880.

Fresh trees are available at **Bowman's Christmas Trees** at the corner of Sumpter and Willis Roads. For over 25 years owner **Tim Bowman** and family have been selling Balsam and Fraser Fir, Scotch Pine, and others. They're open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Houdini Cleaners at **6062 Rawsonville Road** is under new management along with their other location, **Laundry Land**, a coin-operated laundry center at **1001 Michigan Avenue** in Ypsilanti, next to O'Reilly's Auto Parts. Houdini's (734-483-5777) is open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Laundry Land (734-482-6280) is open every day, from 8 a.m. to midnight and offers free Wi-Fi.

Thanks to the **Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce** for allowing me to draw its coloring book again this year. It's always a fun project. Be sure to get your copy when you visit Santa here in town.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

FMAR gets \$6,000 award from BISSELL Pet Foundation

The BISSELL Pet Foundation™, supported in part by BISSELL Homecare, Inc., has awarded \$6,000 to the Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue to support their life-saving efforts.

Grant funds will be used to support veterinary care and Project Snip & Clip, a feral cat Trap-Neuter-Return program serving Washtenaw, Wayne, and Monroe counties.

"With literally millions of homeless pets euthanized every year in the U.S., we focus on funding programs that will do the most to change this heartbreaking outcome," said Cathy Bissell, Founder of the BISSELL Pet Foundation.

"It brings me and my team so much joy to know we are helping to save the lives of thousands of animals through these grant awards."

Established in 2011 by Cathy Bissell, a devoted pet lover and advocate, the BISSELL Pet Foundation addresses the growing problem of displaced, unwanted and homeless pets by providing assistance to shelter and rescue programs, and by creating awareness about pet overpopulation, in the hopes of finding every pet a loving home.

Since its inception, the foundation has given more than \$2.7 million in support to organizations like Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue.

BISSELL Pet Foundation is a charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to help reduce the number of animals in shelters and to support organizations dedicated to the humane care and treated of animals through pet adoption, spay/neuter programs, micro-chipping and foster care.

Founded in 2011 by Cathy Bissell, the BISSELL Pet Foundation is an extension of her long-standing love for animals and commitment to their welfare.

The foundation is supported by BISSELL Homecare, Inc., a 139-year-old Grand Rapids-based floor care appliance brand in its fourth generation of family leadership.

Public Auction Notice

SUMPTER TWP. POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

**NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR SUMPTER TWP. POLICE
287 INDUSTRIAL PARK DR., BELLEVILLE, MI 48111
Tuesday, December 15, 2015 @ 10:00 AM**

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL	VIN
2004	FORD TAURUS	1FAFP53224G149626
1995	CHRYSLER LHS	2C3HC56F45H646728
1997	DODGE CARAVAN	1B4GP45R8VB438105
2000	CHRYSLER	2C4GJ44G0YR762465
1998	CHEVROLET S-10	1GCCS1445W8178510
1987	FORD F-150	2FTEF15N5HCA75893
2004	DODGE CARAVAN	2D4GD44L44R509447
2002	YAMAHA BLASTER	JY43JM0322C043153
2004	MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE	4A3AC74HX4E051645
2004	PONTIAC GRAND PRIX	2G2WP522941286766
2000	PONTIAC GRAND AM	1G2NE52T1YM700775
2007	FORD FOCUS	1FAHP31N57W246985
1998	CHEVROLET CAVALIER	1G1JC1243W7302683
2008	CHEVROLET COBALT	1G1AK58F087284066
2005	HONDA DIRT BIKE	JH2ME10375M101952
2000	BLACK FORD EXPLORER	1FMZU73E9YZA32069
1998	DODGE RAM	3B7HF12ZXWG146171
1991	JEEP COMANCHE	1J7FT26P7ML624199
2004	KIA OPTIMA	KNAGD12B245354619
2003	LINCOLN LS	1LNHM865234695937
2001	FORD F-150	1FTRW07W11KF49860
1985	FORD MUSTANG	1FABP26A1FF253095
1998	CHEVROLET LUMINA	2G1WN52KXW9109239
1989	FORD MUSTANG	1FABP40A5KF199363
2001	FORD TAURUS	1FAFP53U11G109907
1998	HONDA CIVIC	JHMEJ6685W5817348

Publish: December 3, 2015

*To build a better world,
start in your own community!*



Sumpter Township Public Notice



DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The Township of Sumpter Board of Review will meet to correct clerical errors, mutual mistakes of fact and principal residence exemptions. Also to hear poverty exemptions and veterans exemptions.

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

At 3:30 PM

Sumpter Township Hall

23480 Sumpter Road

Belleville, MI 48111

(734) 461-6201

Publish: December 3, 2015

House razed

(continued from page 1)

were done. But the blight continued.

He said the basement was not poured, the porch unsafe, no power to the house, a perpetually open window had animals coming in and out, and other problems. The house was full of all kinds of things because Cassini is a hoarder, he said, noting when they cleaned out one storage shed in back of the house there were 10 old mattresses inside.

He said that morning, they checked inside the house to make sure Cassini wasn't inside before beginning the demolition and there was even more stuff inside.

Lt. Bazy said in August 2014 there was a meeting of VBT Supervisor Linda Combs, VBT Public Safety Director Greg Laurain, Lt. Bazy and Cassini. Lt. Bazy said they were seeking a resolution to the problem.

Lt. Bazy said the township officials wanted her to put on siding and do other finishing work and she agreed, saying she would have it done by December.

"We had a hellacious winter and so we gave her until March 2015," Lt. Bazy said. He said she had taken out no permits for the work and no work was done, so violations were issued.

She took the township to court to get her property tax reduced and her engineer and appraiser said the foundation was defective, Mannarino said. The township lost and it was decided the township could only tax the land and that the structure had no value.

The township responded that because she claimed the building was uninhabitable and should be torn down, she should tear it down, Lt. Bazy said. She didn't answer that notice and filed no appeal with the Construction Board of Appeals.

Cassini filed for and got an injunction against the township to keep the house from being destroyed. But, after the judge heard the case, the judge said he would never have issued the original restraining order if he knew the whole story. He dismissed her injunction completely, Lt. Bazy said, and the township moved toward demolition.

Lt. Bazy said Cassini sued the contractor who built the house and he counter-sued and won a verdict of \$60,000.

Lt. Bazy said Citicorp had held the mortgage on the house since 1997 and didn't know the house had burned down. Last week the bank dismissed its opposition to the house razing, Lt. Bazy said.

So, finally, the house was torn down.



**One Call Does It All . . .
. . . At the Independent
699-9020**

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE
NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Docket No. CP16-22-000

Notice is hereby given that on November 20, 2015, NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC ("NEXUS") filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity regarding its proposed NEXUS Gas Transmission Project ("Project") in FERC Docket No. CP16-22-000 ("Application").

NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC, ("NEXUS") is developing a natural gas pipeline for the seamless transportation of Appalachian Basin shale gas, including Utica and Marcellus shale gas, production to meet the growing demand for natural gas by the electric generation, distribution and end use markets in Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario. The Application seeks FERC's approval for NEXUS to construct, install, own, operate and maintain approximately 255 miles of new 36-inch diameter pipeline and related facilities designed to deliver 1.5 million dekatherms of natural gas per day beginning in November 2017.

Specifically, NEXUS proposes to perform the following activities:

- Construct approximately 208 miles of new 36-inch diameter pipeline and related above-ground facilities in Columbiana, Stark, Summit, Wayne, Medina, Lorain, Huron, Erie, Sandusky, Wood, Lucas, Henry, and Fulton Counties, Ohio;
- Construct approximately 47 miles of new 36-inch diameter pipeline and related above-ground facilities in Lenawee, Monroe, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties, Michigan;
- Construct and operate four (4) new compressor stations in Columbiana, Medina, Sandusky and Lucas Counties, Ohio;
- Construct five (5) new meter stations; three (3) of which will be located in Columbiana County, Ohio; one (1) in Erie County, Ohio and one (1) in Washtenaw County, Michigan; and
- Additional above ground facilities including pig launchers and receivers, mainline valves, communications towers and customer delivery connections.

Notice of the Application will be mailed to affected landowners, and municipal, state and federal governments and agencies involved in the Project. A copy of the Application and related resource reports are on file in the following public libraries and/or municipal and county offices.

NEXUS Community Library List - Ohio

Carroll County
Carroll County District Library
70 NE 2nd Street
Carrollton, OH 44615

Columbiana County
Columbiana Public Library
332 N Middle St
Columbiana, OH 44408

Henry County
Napoleon Public Library
310 W Clinton Street
Napoleon, OH 43545

Huron County
Norwalk Public Library
46 W Main Street
Norwalk, OH 44857

Lorain County
Lorain Public Library - Main Library
351 6th St
Lorain, OH 44052

Erie County
Berlin Township Public Library
4 E Main St
Berlin Heights, OH 44814

Fulton County
Evergreen Community Library
253 Maple St
Metamora, OH 43540

Summit County
Akron Summit County Public Library - Green Branch
4046 Massillon Rd
Uniontown, OH 44685

Wayne County
Wayne County Public Library
169 N Portage St
Doylestown, OH 44230

Wood County
Pemberville Public Library
375 E Front St
Pemberville, OH 43450

(Continued on page 21)

Public Notice

(Continued from page 20)

Lucas County
Lucas County Public Library – Maumee
501 River Rd
Maumee, OH 43537

Medina County
The Ella M Everhard Public Library
132 Broad Street
Wadsworth, OH 44281

Sandusky County
Birchard Public Library
423 Croghan St
Fremont, OH 43420

Stark County
Rodman Public Library
215 E Broadway St
Alliance, OH 44601

NEXUS Community Library List - Michigan

Lenawee County
Blissfield Library
407 S Lane St
Blissfield, MI 49228

Monroe County
Monroe County Library
3700 S Custer Rd
Monroe, MI 48161

Washtenaw County
Ypsilanti District Library
229 W Michigan Ave
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Wayne County
Canton Public Library
1200 S Canton Center Rd
Canton, MI 48188

For further information on becoming an intervenor in the FERC process and/or to obtain FERC's pamphlet entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline on My Land? What Do I Need to Know?" visit FERC's website (www.ferc.gov) or contact FERC's Office of External Affairs at (202) 502-6088 or the toll free NEXUS landowner hotline at 1 (844) 589-3655.

For more information, please contact:

Walton Johnson
Right-of-Way Manager
NEXUS Gas Transmission, LLC
P.O. Box 490
Sharon Center, OH 44274
www.nexusgastransmission.com

Publish: December 3, 2015; December 10, 2015

'A Norman Rockwell Christmas' parade starts at 6 p.m. on Saturday

The annual, lighted Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade starts off from Belleville High School at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5.

This year's theme is "A Norman Rockwell Christmas." Santa Claus will be brought to town on a city of Belleville fire truck and will be given the Key to the City.

After the parade, there will be a ceremonial lighting of the city Christmas Tree in front of the museum. Santa will be seated inside Belleville First United Methodist Church to listen to Christmas wishes from children.

Outside the church on the lawn will be a living nativity scene, an annual favorite for the crowd.

A fireworks display over Belleville Lake follows from the Denton Road Bridge.

Throughout the weekend there will be skating on the Fourth Street Square, courtesy of the BYC, and ice sculptures throughout the city, courtesy of the businesses.



The Belleville Independent is now a drop off location for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Bring in your new, unwrapped toy to our office at: 152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI
We are located in the Professional Building (the old movie theater building) across from Mr. Goofy's Car Wash.

City of Belleville Public Notice

City of Belleville DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW



The December Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. at Belleville City Hall, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. The Board will correct any clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact pertaining to the 2015 property assessments.

Property assessments can only be changed for:

1. Homestead exemption status.
2. Poverty exemptions.

Lisa Long
City Clerk

Publish: December 3, 2015

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- 1) To correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact;
- 2) Homestead exemption status; and
- 3) Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to December 11, 2015.

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: December 3, 2015
December 10, 2015

Post: December 1, 2015

James Forrest Chapman takes plea deal of misdemeanor stalking

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Tuesday morning in the Detroit courtroom of Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Margaret Van Houten, James Forrest Chapman of Van Buren Township pled no contest to a one-year charge of misdemeanor stalking.

Accepting the plea deal, Judge Van Houten sentenced him to two years of probation, with the first year being reporting probation.

She also gave him 90 days to remove his logging operation and other property from Hull Road.

Van Buren Township Police Lt. Charles Bazy said although Chapman had called for a jury trial, the jury trial had been cancelled. He said if found guilty of the original charge of aggravated stalking, Chapman could have faced five years in prison, which could have been doubled to ten years since he is considered a habitual offender.

Lt. Bazy said the Wayne County Prosecutor is appealing District Court Judge Brian Oakley’s recent dismissal of a misdemeanor charge against Chapman for refusing to give a DNA sample when he was arrested for the stalking charge.

If the appeal is successful, VBT Police will take a DNA sample from Chapman.

Belleville Community Chorus to present Winter Concert Dec. 12

On Saturday, Dec. 12, the entire community is invited to enjoy the Belleville Community Chorus’ 10th-annual winter concert “Celebrate with Music.”

The performance is at 7 p.m. in the Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street.

Under the leadership of director Sue Hiser and accompanist Kevin Shay the concert will feature songs about celebration and is sure to include seasonal favorites as well as some newer works.

In recognition of this 10th year of the chorus’ history, the program will showcase at least one number from concerts of each of the previous nine years.

“Celebrate with Music” also will include numbers by the Belleville Community Children’s Chorus and Teen Ensemble. As always, the concert is free, though donations supporting the chorus are invited and welcomed.

For more information or to become a part of the Belleville Community Chorus, call Lori Day at (734) 660-0797 or visit www.bellevillechorus.org.

The Belleville Community Chorus (BCC) offers opportunities for performance of mixed voice choral music in a variety of styles.

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 588 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, Nov. 22:
0042 – neighbor trouble, Parkwood Dr.
0157 – suspicious vehicle, Van Buren Park
0457 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Jackson St.
0648 – agency assist, I-275/Van Born
0825 – assault & battery, Oak Ln.
0930 – assault & battery, Rock Creek Dr.
1047 – larceny, E. Huron River Dr.
1202 – property damage accident, Haggerty / Savage
1427 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Bayshore Dr.

1448 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood
1448 – assault & battery, Ecorse Rd.
1523 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
1553 – civil matter, Beck
1552 – shots fired, W. Archwood Dr.
1720 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
2232 – disturbance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2302 – noise complaint, Oak Ln.

Monday, Nov. 23:
0853 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0851 – assault & battery, Birch Dr.
0910 – malicious destruction of property, E. Schooner Dr.
1045 – noise complaint, Elwell Rd.
1425 – property damage accident, Belleville
1645 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr. / Farm Rd.
1655 – fraud, Sonrisa St.
2001 – assault & battery, Michigan Ave.
2207 – noise complaint, Sylvia Dr.
2326 – vehicle repossession, Belleville Rd.

Tuesday, Nov. 24:
1107 – disorderly conduct, Tyler Rd.
1251 – property damage accident, BP Belleville/ N-194 Service Dr.
1556 – breaking & entering, N. Cumberland Dr.
1612 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Savage Rd.
2326 – family trouble, Wildbrook Dr.
Wednesday, Nov. 25:
0847 – property damage accident, Westlake
0852 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rdd.
1018 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Woodbury Dr.

1144 – fraud, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1353 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1410 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1447 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Rawsonville Rd.
1455 – juvenile complaint, Michigan Ave.
1617 – larceny, Denton Rd.
1633 – larceny from auto, Hull Rd.
1730 – agency assist, E. Huron River Dr.
1946 – property damage accident, Bradley Dr. / Morton Taylor Rd.
1958 – breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.
2058 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville
2142 – malicious destruction of property, Sawgrass Ct.
2339 – assault & battery, Jackson St.

Thursday, Nov. 26:
0021 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
0120 – disturbance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0138 – operating while intoxicated, McDonald’s
1136 – disorderly conduct, Ecorse Rd.
1249 – fraud, Rawsonville
1340 – assist fire dept., NB I-275/Ecorse
1533 – assault & battery, Jackson St.
1611 – disturbance, Lohr
1622 – mental, Haggerty/Ross
1639 – assault & battery, Shell
1918 – family trouble, Peachtree
1952 – suspicious person, Hull Rd.
2019 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
2030 – suspicious person, Vista Dr./Paloma Dr.
2036 – suspicious person, Harmony Ln.
2104 – noise complait, Lohr Rd.
2126 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.

Friday, Nov. 27:
0014 – noise complaint, Wildbrook Dr./Savage Rd.
0124 – assault & battery, Wendy’s
0921 – private property incident, Belleville
1311 – assault & battery, Hannan Rd.
1655 – trespassing, Sylvia Dr.
1708 – disorderly conduct, Rawsonville/Martz
1735 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd. / McKinley St.
1744 – overdose, Kennedy St.
1801 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Lake Villa Dr.
2101 – family trouble, Jackson St.
2115 – agency assist, W. Huron River Dr. / Harbour Pointe
Saturday, Nov. 28:
0043 – private property accident, Industrial
0413 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
0858 – abandoned auto, Van Buren St..
0920 – property damage accident, Lohr Rd./Oak Blvd.
1016 – water leak found, Haggerty Rd.
1031 – breaking & entering, Martz Rd.
1034 – family trouble, Elwell Rd.
1352 – mental, Peachtree
1434 – assault & battery, Peachtree
1839 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan\
1838 – larceny, Rawsonville Rd.

Also on this week’s log are 134 traffic stops, 11 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways. Also, there were 12 traffic stops at Hayward’s in the city of Belleville on Nov. 24 and 25.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 22:
0100 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
0152 – suspicious situation, E. Columbia Ave.
2223 – disturbance, Potter Dr.

Monday, Nov. 23:
0524 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1110 – follow up, Potter Dr.
1333 – intrusion alarm, N. Liberty St.
1535 – property damage accident, Main St. / Huron River Dr.

Tuesday, Nov. 24:
0844 – property damage accident, Savage / Davenport Plaza
1605 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
1814 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
1950 – assist fire dept., Church St.
2021 – warrant arrest, Main St.

Wednesday, Nov. 25:
0026 – suspicious situation, Astor Pl.
0205 – follow up, Astor Pl.
0905 – larceny, N. Edgemont Ave.
0947 – follow up, South St.
1338 – assist fire dept., Citgo
1537 – assist fire dept., Henry St.
1550 – background investigation, Main St.
1753 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.
1945 – intrusion alarm, S. Edgemont Ave.
2205 – follow up, McKinley

Thursday, Nov. 26:
0035 – domestic assault, Belle Villa Blvd.
0152 – suspicious situation, Loza Ln.
0248 – suspicious vehicle, Potter Dr.
0850 – civil matter, Belle Villa Blvd.
1627 – assist fire dept., Belle Villa Blvd.
1817 – domestic assault, Carmell St.
2119 – property check, St. Anthony’s
2138 – suspicious vehicle, W. Columbia Ave.

Friday, Nov. 27:
1025 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1258 – fraud, Bedell St.
1404 – disorderly conduct, W. Columbia Ave.
1507 – property damage accident, Main St.
1729 – welfare check, E. Waterbury Ct.
1916 – property damage accident, Main St.
2006 – serve warrant, Oxford Ct.
2015 – serve warrant, Carmell St.
2112 – serve warrant, Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Nov. 28:
1724 – follow up, Huron River Dr.
1957 – property check, Church St.
2155 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
Also on this week’s log are 37 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 22:
0622 – down wires, Willow/Haggerty
0929 – fire dept. assist, Arizona
1004 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1131 – alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1143 – reckless driver, Sumpter/Willow
1233 – assist other agency, 18000 bl. Boyd Dr.
1704 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.
1730 – breaking & entering report, 44000 bl. Clay
2047 – subpoena service, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.

Monday, Nov. 23:
0305 – suspicious incident, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1153 – subpoena service,s 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
1224 – alarm, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1336 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.
1523 – citizen assist, Washington
1910 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township

Tuesday, Nov. 24:
0115 – animal complaint, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0707 – down wires, Nevada
1031 – well-being check, 21000 bl. Karr Rd.
1316 – subpoena service, Greenmeadow
1640 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2207 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.

Wednesday, Nov. 25:
0041 – property damage accident, Karr/Judd
0717 – suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0828 – property damage accident, Clark/S. Huron
1055 – alarm, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1103 – fraud complaint, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1201 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.
1521 – animal complaint, Willow/Clark
1529 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1556 – citizen assist, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.
1745 – mental health commitment, Wayside Dr.
1905 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2116 – property damage accident, Elwell/Willow
2227 – warrant arrest pickup, Bemis/Elwell
2350 – alarm, Washington

Thursday, Nov. 26:
1006 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1038 – suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.
1301 – alarm, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1334 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1710 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1815 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
1845 – disorderly person, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2215 – family trouble, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.
2345 – ordinance violation, Carriage Ln.

Friday, Nov. 27:
0215 – suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Martinsville
0618 – alarm, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
0905 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1753 – warrant arrest pick up, Walnut

Saturday, Nov. 28:
1039 – family trouble, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1103 – family trouble, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1140 – alarm, 19000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1438 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1509 – harassment complaint, 24000 bl. Clark
2109 – assist other agency, 46000 bl. Bemis Rd.

Also on this week’s log are eight follow-up investigations, 26 miscellaneous details, 162 patrol checks, and 60 traffic stops.

Editorial

(continued from page 4)

The director said he had to call Officer Adam Byrd to tell him to alert union members, Buckberry said. “I’m Officer Byrd’s supervisor and I’ve never questioned his integrity,”

Byrd said at the board’s work/study session he was accused of being confused and he’s not confused at all.

Former Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan asked who made the decision to give an official notice of layoffs – and why? There was no answer from the board. At the end of the meeting, Sgt. Marc Abdilla said to the board: “You got us. It’s up to you what you do with us.”

(More on the meeting next week.)

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Through December** – 20th-annual Festival of Holiday Trees at the Belleville Area Museum. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 3-7 p.m., and Thursday and Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Museum closed Dec. 23-28 and Dec. 30-Jan. 4.

• **Thursday, Dec. 3** – Van Buren Township Parks & Recreation hosts best-selling children's author/artist Jan Brett for a book signing from 5 to 7 p.m. at the township hall. Barnes and Noble Bookstore of Ann Arbor will be selling her recently released book, "The Turnip," along with other of

her favorite titles.

• **Friday, Dec. 4** – You're invited to the annual holiday party of the Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club at 6 p.m. at UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti. Tickets are available at the door for \$25 single and \$40 a couple. Includes dinner, beer, wine, and door prize ticket. Please bring a non-perishable food item or an unwrapped toy for charity. Information: (313) 605-9727.

• **Saturday, Dec. 5** – Holiday Arts & Crafts Show with a variety of more than 40 crafters runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Community Center, 46425 Tyler Road. Also the big, annual sale of baked goods in the Senior Center.

• **Saturday, Dec. 5** – Christmas Parade of Lights starts at 6 p.m. at BHS, heads

down W. Columbia Ave. to Five Points and then up Main Street to the museum. City Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is after the parade on the museum lawn. Santa will ride into town on a fire truck and be inside the First United Methodist Church. A live nativity scene will be outside the church. The fireworks display from Denton Road bridge comes after the parade.

• **Sunday, Dec. 6** – The Angel of Hope ceremony begins at 7 p.m. at Hillside Cemetery to pay loving tribute to the memory of deceased children, regardless of age.

• **Sunday, Dec. 6** – Bugles Across America, 7:15 p.m., Veterans Memorial on High Street in downtown Belleville. A brief ceremony and "Taps" to honor those who served, both living and deceased.

• **Saturday, Dec. 12, and Sunday, Dec. 13** – Bethany Bible Church Choir presents "Christmas is Coming – Sing for Joy" at 7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sunday at Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, (734) 697-7456. bethanybiblechurch.com Admission Free. Infant and toddler nursery available.

• **Saturday, Dec. 12** – Christmas photos with Santa at the museum, sponsored by Belleville Central Business Community. Also Museum Children's Christmas Ornament Workshops at noon, 1 and 2 p.m.

• **Saturday, Dec. 12** – Country Christmas Celebration, 1-3 p.m. at New Boston's St. Paul Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig, one block off Sibley. Free family fun for all ages: crafts, games and prizes, food, story-telling and photos with St. Nick. Goodfellows Toy Drive. Chili Cook-off. Info: (734) 753-9048

• **Saturday, Dec. 12** – Belleville Community Chorus presents its winter concert, "Celebrate with Music," at 7 p.m. at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street. Free admission. Children's Chorus and Teen Ensemble will perform.

• **Sunday, Dec. 13** – Off-leash playtime at 2 p.m. with other friendly Pugs and Pug owners in the Abbott Building at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Road, Van Buren Township. FREE, but donations accepted to help. Your Pugs will love you for their new social life! www.meetup.com/semichiganpugs



Winning the Adult group award for the best scarecrow was Belleville Area Council for the Arts. Mayor Kerreen Conley presented the award to BACA president Steve Jones at the Nov. 16 city council meeting.



Belleville High School representative Marcia Kennedy, right, accepted the award for Youth Groups from Councilwoman Kim Tindall.



Councilman Tom Fielder, left, presented the Family and Individual award to Chrystal and Norman Lampinen for their scarecrow.



Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria presented the Business award to Garden Fantasy on Main representatives Brian McClinton, left, and Mike Dacko, right.

Belleville Community Band

Christmas Concert

Friday, December 18th
7:30 p.m.

Free Admission

First United Methodist Church - 417 Charles Street, Belleville

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BELLEVILLE LAKE



43260 HURON RIVER DR, VAN BUREN
UPDATED 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Belleville Lake Home with 1600+ Square Feet Offering Enchanting Lake Views, 30 ft Deck, 75 ft Boat Dock on Belleville Lake. Natural Stone Fireplace with Built In Book Cases, Super Refinished Hardwood Floors with New Carpet, Partially Finished Basement, 2 1/2 Car Garage, Paved Street and The Best Buy on the Lake. \$247,900.

BELLEVILLE LAKE



11716 JUNIPER, VAN BUREN
MILLION DOLLAR Lakefront Panorama Views in this Custom Built Full Brick 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath Home. More than 150 Feet of Lake Frontage. Home Professionally Designed for Optimum Lakefront Enjoyment and Constructed with an Unyielding Commitment to Quality. Carefully Placed One of Belleville Lake's Premiere Lake Lots \$495,000.



26360 BELL ROAD HURON TWP
UNMATCHED BEAUTY! This gorgeous home sits on 2.38 Acres with countless high end finishes to please every want and need. 20 foot stone fireplace, Custom kitchen with granite countertops and Brazilian Hardwood floors Everywhere. 4 Full bedrooms 3 1/2 Baths, 3000+ Sq Feet, Full Finished Basement, 3 1/2 Car Garage. MUCH MORE \$449,000.



6315 DENTON, VAN BUREN
CLASSIC LINES AND TIMELESS DESIGN. Impressive and Updated 4 Bedroom Victorian Home with Wrap Porch Master Bedroom with Fireplace, Hardwood Floors, Basement, High Energy Efficient Furnace and Updating Everywhere. 2 1/2 Car Garage PLUS Bonus Second Home w 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. \$209,900



40085 ROBBE, VAN BUREN
STORY BOOK LOOK Country Home on Quiet Street Backing and Backs Up To Metroparks. Upgraded with Thermal Windows, Oak Kitchen, Remodeled Bath, First Floor Master Bedroom and Large Laundry Room, Berber Carpeting and more. Impressive Yard and Qualified Buyers Only. \$134,900.



44940 BEMIS, VAN BUREN
LARGER Van Buren Township vinyl ranch featuring 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Family Room with Fireplace, Dining Room, Open Living Room, Central Air and Walkout Deck. Huge 2 1/2 Car Garage on 1.4 Acre Double Lot, Paved Street and More. Astonishingly Affordable at. \$174,900



22005 KARR SUMPTER TWP
A most Restful Country Address offering 4 bedrooms, Large Country Kitchen, First Floor Study with built in Book Shelves, Updated Bath and Charm only Improved with Age. A Mini-Farm that Provides Maximum Pleasure on more than 2 Acres Complete with A Large Red Barn. Approved Buyers Only. \$134,900



109 ASTOR, BELLEVILLE
A MOST AFFORDABLE Carefree Condo Living in Belle Villa Condos. 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Condo with Deck and More. Lots for the Money and Immediate Possession. Owner Occupants Only. Best Location. \$45,900



42715 PRESWICK CT, VAN BUREN
THIS ORIGINAL OWNER HOME has Been Pampered and Maintained since Birth. Gently Place on the Best and Preferred Court Location and Features 4 Bedrooms, 3 Full Baths, New Carpet, Fresh Paint, Many Updates, Walk-out Family Room with Bar Area to Entertainment BIG LOT, Oversized Garage. \$209,900

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BELLEVILLE
337 MAIN .32 ACRES 83X165 \$79,500
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
WEAR ROAD 10 ACRES \$49,900
ELWES RD 4 AC (WAS \$150,000) **SOLD** \$95,000

25817 SUMPTER RD .97 ACRES \$20,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
45885 BEMIS PAVED RD BUIDABLE LOT \$27,500
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000
VACANT SUMPTER 7.46 ACRES \$30,000
42060 (NEXT TO) WILLIS 3.7 ACRES \$45,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.36 ACRES \$25,000
BOHN NEAR DUNN 5 ACRES \$29,000

20731 GRIFFIN COURT 1.1 AC \$25,900
20743 GRIFFIN COURT 1.4 AC \$29,500
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP
739 SAVAGE PAVED ST 1.02 ACRES \$35,000
15880 HAWK RD 10.53 ACRES **SOLD** \$95,000

VACANT BOG ROAD .55 ACRES \$29,750
VAN 6422 GILMORE 82X165 LOT WITH WATER AND SEWER PRICED RIGHT \$15,900
49809 BOG 2.74 ACRES \$49,500
5900 DELLOR 1.81 ACRES \$40,000

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Build your own Holiday Basket at **Tim Hortons** in Belleville restaurants only!

Please visit either 2141 Rawsonville Rd. or 10360 Belleville Rd. **Tim Hortons** and choose from a selection of coffee's, teas, gift cards and mugs to surprise the people on your shopping list for this Holiday Season! Place your order at either restaurant and collect your beautiful basket with all the trimmings the next day. Bring this add into either restaurant and receive one small hot beverage of your choice FREE with the order of any basket that you help create!

(no cash value with this add and free small hot beverage with your order only until January 02, 2016)

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays from your Belleville area Tim Hortons!